WORLD / A20

100,000 protesters demonstrate against Burma generals

BUSINESS / B1

91-day T-bill fetches rate of 3.759%

NEWS / A16

GMA names Razon new PNP chief

SPORTS/ A21

Tierro, Arcilla cap RP rout of Kuwait in Davis Cup

METRO / A18

NBI exhumes body of girl believed to be Geraldine Palma

Master of mime now rests in eternal silence

PARIS—MARCEL MARCEAU, THE MASter of mime who transformed silence into poetry with artful gestures that spoke to young and old around the world, has died after 60 years on the stage. He was 84.

Marceau, who breathed new life into an art that dates to ancient Greece, died Saturday in Paris, his former assistant Em-

MASTER/ A8

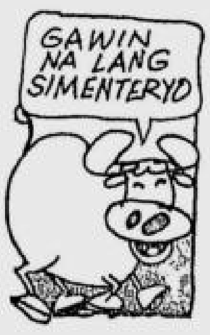
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Tuesday, September 25, 2007 ★★ 6 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 289 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

For sale: Spacious missile base for only $1.5 million

WASHINGTON—LOOKing for a new home with a bit more space as well as a 1950s Cold War ambiance?

A US intercontinental ballistic missile base, equipped with a vast un-

FOR SALE/ A8



ESTRADA: Dictating the terms

ABSOLUTE PARDON PLAN

Erap may get to keep ₱1B of ill-gotten assets

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan
and Jocelyn R. Uy

AN ABSOLUTE PARDON MEANS the government will no longer confiscate P1 billion in ill-gained assets that deposed President Joseph Estrada had allegedly acquired and that the Sandiganbayan wants forfeited to the state.

This was how Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno interpreted the proposed unconditional pardon that he and Estrada are expected to discuss when they meet over lunch today at the latter's rest house in Tanay, Rizal.

The alleged ill-gotten assets would include the infamous "Boracay Mansion" in Quezon City.

The Tanay meeting between Estrada and his own former interior secretary is taking place amid sharp opposition from some legal luminaries, who said an unconditional pardon would be blow to the justice system.

Some said Estrada should be given an absolute pardon only if he expresses remorse for his sins and surrenders his supposedly ill-gotten assets.

"Absolute pardon is absolute pardon. I think the penalties are vacated," Puno said when asked about the Sandiganbayan's forfeiture order on Estrada's assets.

"I do not know *ha*? I'm not the one who will determine the implications of the deal. But absolute pardon *iyon* (that is abso-

ERAP MAY/ A8

GMA flip-flops on Neri

Gov't places more China deals on hold

By Amy Remo
and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULture is putting on the back burner plans to allow China use of 1.24 million hectares of Philippine agricultural land.

"This suspension is a unique case and has nothing to do with the ZTE and Cyber Education contracts. I just want more time for consultations with all stakeholders," Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap said in a phone interview yesterday.

Malacañang announced on Saturday the suspension of the Chinese-funded National Broadband Network (NBN) project, which was awarded to the Chinese firm ZTE Corp., and the CyberEd project of the Department of Education amid allegations that these were tainted with corruption and bribery.

The Senate, which is investigating the NBN deal, is also being asked by a militant group to compel government officials to disclose the full details of the negotiations for the planned $1.6-billion investment of China Development Bank (CDB) in the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in Pampanga.

Yap told the senators in a budget

GOV'T/ A6

NERI: Cabinet man on the hot seat
RODEL ROTONI

Suspension no threat to RP-Sino ties, says Favila

By Ronnel W. Domingo

TRADE SECRETARY PETER B. FAVILA yesterday said he had agreed with his Chinese counterpart that the suspension of ZTE Corp.'s contract to build a $329-million National Broadband Network (NBN) should not strain relations between Manila and Beijing.

Favila said in an interview he had been working behind the scenes toward the suspension of the contract upon the orders of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Asked how the Chinese were taking this development, Favila said he

CONTRACT/ A6

ROGER MARGALLO

SPEAKER Jose de Venecia together with other lawmakers see off President Macapagal-Arroyo at Villamor Air Base. The President flew to Iligan City yesterday to attend a business forum. Behind Ms Arroyo and De Venecia are Representatives Eric Singson, Ed Zialcita and Rodolfo Valencia.

In the end, Palace says he'll testify at Senate

By Norman Bordadora,
Michael Lim Ubac
and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY hemmed and hawed before deciding to allow Romulo Neri to attend the Senate hearing on the controversial $329-million contract for the National Broadband Network (NBN) project awarded to China's ZTE Corp.

The Palace decision came after the Senate threatened to subpoena Neri, the director general of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) when the NBN project was approved. Neda reviews proposed government projects.

"If Neri allows himself to be silenced by the President, he can't blame anyone but himself if he is called a wimp without intestinal fortitude to help the Senate get at the truth in the ZTE deal. He should be condemned and burned at the stake," Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said.

The Palace said yesterday afternoon that Neri, now chair of the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd), was not leaving for the United States.

Then, it said Neri was part of President Macapagal-Arroyo's official delegation to the United Nations General Assembly that is scheduled to leave for New York tonight on the eve of the resumption of the Senate probe of the deal.

Early in the evening, Executive Sec-

GMA FLIP-FLOPS/ A6

Ratings of Gloria, Mike dip amid NBN scandal

By Kate Pedroso
Inquirer Research

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S approval rating has plunged, along with the trust rating of her husband, amid a bribery scandal involving a broadband deal with China, a Social Weather Stations survey showed yesterday.

Only three in every 10 adult Filipinos were satisfied with Ms Arroyo's performance, while only one in every five trusted Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, according to the latest SWS survey.

The third quarter survey found 34 percent were satisfied and 45 percent dissatisfied with the President's performance, for a net rating of -11, down from her June net rating of -3.

The survey also found that 20 percent had "much trust" in Mike Arroyo, while 58 percent had "little trust" in him, for a net trust rating of -37, according to SWS after it rounded off the figures.

"Positive net trust in Mr. Arroyo occurred only in January 2001; it has been negative from September 2001 to the present," SWS noted.

Net satisfaction rating is the differ-

RATINGS/ A15

Lawyer asks Ombudsman to investigate GMA hubby

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A CONTROVERSIAL LAWYER ASSOCIated with high profile lost causes yesterday asked the Ombudsman to investigate President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband and Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos in connection with the National Broadband Network (NBN) project.

In initiating the first criminal complaint that links Jose Miguel Arroyo to the $329-million deal with China, Ernesto Francisco Jr. said that the antigraft body had the power to probe impeachable and private citizens under "The Ombudsman Act of 1989."

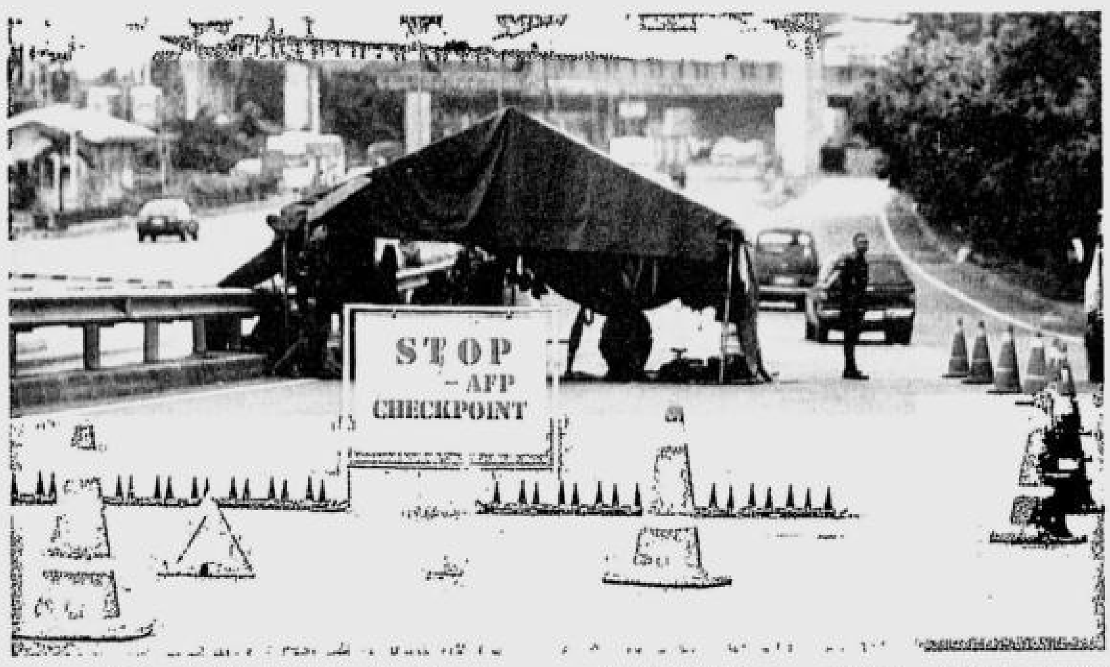
In his 40-page plea, Francisco stated that the law mandated the antigraft body "to investigate any serious misconduct in office allegedly committed by officials removable by impeachment, for the purpose of filing a verified complaint of impeachment, if warranted."

He said that the law provides that "in all cases of conspiracy between an officer or employee of the government and a private person, the Ombudsman and his deputies shall have jurisdiction to include such private person in the investigation."

Francisco had questioned the imposi-

LAWYER/ A15

SECURITY ALERT
A group of soldiers mans a checkpoint along the South Luzon Expressway near Villamor Air Base on Monday. The military has brought extra troops into Metro Manila to guard the capital following reports of new destabilization plots against President Macapagal-Arroyo.
REM ZAMORA



WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The western sections of Luzon and Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening

Metro Manila	Mostly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Mostly Cloudy
Baguio	Mostly Cloudy	Roxas	Mostly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Mostly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Mostly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Mostly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

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SC to look into P10-M 'bribe'

Justice Santiago denies having received money in gift box

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE SUPREME COURT WILL HOLD A SPECIAL session today to tackle media reports implicating one of its own magistrates in a P10-million payoff scandal.

Jose Midas Marquez, spokesperson for the high court, said yesterday the justices will decide whether or not to investigate "disturbing" allegations that came out in the national broadsheet Malaya and Newsbreak magazine.

The justice named in the alleged bribery incident, Justice Consuelo Ynares-Santiago, denied the accusation and asked for an immediate investigation. She will not attend the special session.

In its report last week, Newsbreak said Santiago fired her former judicial staff officer, Daisy Cecilia Delis, after the latter opened a gift-wrapped box delivered to her office and found wads of peso bills, estimated at P10 million inside. It also said the payoff might have been intended to influence decisions in two cases: One involving an official of Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. (Piatco), and the other a land case.

Malaya reported of the same incident but stopped short of naming Santiago.

"It's really disturbing because it attacks the high court, the integrity of the justices themselves, considering that the Chief Justice has been very relentless in his efforts to cleanse the judiciary," Marquez said.

In a statement issued yesterday, Santiago denounced the allegations against her as "malicious and unfounded" and said she suspected they were intended to influence the Court's decision in a Quezon City land dispute.

"At the outset, let me underscore that these are blatant lies clearly aimed at smearing and maligning my character and person, and the integrity of the judiciary, which I have been faithfully serving for 34 years now," Santiago said.

"I highly suspect that these are parts of concerted attempts to influence the high court in deciding a big land dispute in Quezon City now pending before the Supreme Court. Nevertheless, I leave the determination of these to the investigation I have requested," she said.

She also said she was reserving the right to file appropriate criminal cases against those who made the accusations.

She thanked Puno for including the issue in the en banc session today.

According to Marquez, the tribunal will include in its deliberations an affidavit executed by Delis denying she was aware of any bribery attempt involving her erstwhile boss.

Although Malaya did not name Delis, the former secretary of the woman justice was described as a certain "Cecilia" who was named after her aunt, the late Supreme Court Justice Cecilia Muñoz-Palma.

Delis, in her affidavit, said she felt alluded to.

Marquez said there were no hard and fast rules in the Supreme Court on how to handle such allegations.

"There's no SOP really because cases like this aren't really very common," Marquez said.

WHAT'S INSIDE

RP CALLS for greater democratic reforms in Burma /A5

BISHOPS tell gov't, NPA: Stop recruiting tribal folk /A7

BOTIKA ng Bayan opens 10,000th store in Quezon City /A7

Lapus optimistic CyberEd would push through

By Kristine L. Alave and Michael Lim Ubac

THE ONGOING INVESTIGATION of the administration's loan deals with the Chinese government and the "indefinite suspension" of the Cyber Education project has not discouraged the Department of Education from pursuing the high-tech initiative.

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus yesterday slammed lawmakers for "muddling" the P26-billion CyberEd project and the $329-million National Broadband Network (NBN) deal with Chinese telecommunication firm ZTE Corp.

Although "disheartened" by President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to suspend the two projects, Lapus said the DepEd would continue to train teachers and education supervisors to create and deliver content via cyberspace and would use IT to reach out to students in the remotest areas.

He said the country would eventually embrace CyberEd, as "we live in a world where information reigns. Everybody is going there. We should have done this a long time ago. We just have to wait out this negative environment."

The DepEd has scheduled a demonstration of the CyberEd program in three schools in November, in anticipation of the first part of its roll-out in January 2008. But with the suspension of the initiative, Lapus said he expected the project to be delayed by at least six months.

The education chief said lawmakers got it wrong when they lumped CyberEd and the broadband contract together. He added that the two projects would use different technologies and would have different clients.

Lapus stressed that the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), which evaluates government contracts, had approved the CyberEd project because it would be beneficial to teachers and students.

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High court takes up writ favoring victims

By Leila B. Salaverria

FAMILIES AND RELATIVES OF VICTIMS OF extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances are now a step closer to making the authorities exert more effort and be more accountable for the fate of their loved ones after a Supreme Court subcommittee finished drafting the rules on the issuance of a writ of amparo.

The Supreme Court en banc will discuss the draft rules for the writ of amparo (protection in Spanish) today and expects to promulgate these before the 62nd anniversary of the United Nations on Oct. 24, the tribunal said in a statement.

The high court's Committee on the Revision of the Rules of the Court drafted the rules for the writ, which was one of the remedies put forth during the Supreme Court-led multisectoral summit on extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances held in July.

Chief Justice Reynato Puno earlier said the writ of amparo would stop law enforcers from resorting to the simple defense of denial when cases are brought against them to produce a person who has gone missing. The writ can be used to compel state agents to look for the person.

The writ, which is expected to be made retroactive, "will hold public authorities to a high standard of official conduct, failing which they would be held accountable to our people," Puno said.

He had also said that he would harness the Supreme Court's power under the Constitution to promulgate rules that would ensure that constitutional rights are protected, noting that the killings and disappearances had given the country a "black eye."

Aside from the writ of amparo, the high court is also eyeing another measure, the writ of habeas data, to allow families of victims of enforced disappearances to invoke the right to truth and compel the military and other authorities to give them access to official documents.

The writ of habeas data, currently available in Latin American countries, would also require government agents to correct or destroy erroneous data gathered and stored against the disappeared.

Puno had described it as "a remedy to protect the image, privacy and honor of an individual and to enforce the freedom of information of a person."

The high court is also reviewing the guidelines for the writ of habeas corpus, which is so far the only remedy that families of the disappeared can resort to.

Get ready for colder, wetter times — Pagasa

By TJ Burgonio

WEATHER FORECASTERS ARE ADVISING the public to brace for wetter and colder weather in the next three months when La Niña converges with the northeast monsoon.

Residents living in the country's eastern coast off the Pacific Ocean will take the brunt of the above-normal rainfall to be induced by La Niña from October to December, forecasters said yesterday.

A weak La Niña has developed from the cooling of the sea surface temperature in the eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean and is expected to bring more rains to the country in the last quarter.

La Niña is associated with increased rainfall. When it hit the country from December 2005 to March 2006, it induced heavy rains and triggered floods, landslides and mudslides as occurred in Guinsaugon, Southern Leyte, where over 1,000 residents died.

"People should take this seriously, and not lightly. They should take precautionary steps to mitigate the adverse impact of this weather condition," said senior weather specialist Anthony Lucero in an interview.

For starters, the public should drain canals and unclog waterways, identify flood-safe areas, set up an alert system against floods, and organize a team in their barangays to carry out this procedure, he said.

The regions facing the Pacific Ocean—Bicol, Eastern Visayas, Eastern Mindanao, Caraga—and parts of Isabela in Northern Luzon would be directly hit by the above-normal rainfall, said Lucero at the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) office in Quezon City.

"Metro Manila, which lies on the western section of the country, will also likely experience above-normal rainfall, but not in the same degree as the eastern seaboard," he said.

During La Niña, the sea surface temperature becomes cooler than normal, a condition that prompts the easterly winds over the Pacific Ocean to produce more moisture in the air that eventually forms rain-inducing clouds, Lucero said.

If a typhoon swirls into the country, this would further enhance the easterly winds and trigger stronger storm surges, he said.

Cold weather would follow once the northeast monsoon (or Amihan) sweeps into the country from the plateaus of Asia and the Himalayas, bringing rain and cooler weather beginning November, the weather specialist said.

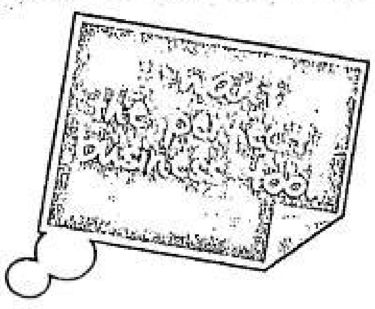
"The two (La Niña and Amihan) will merge. The northeast monsoon will add to the intensity of the strong easterly winds or 'trade winds,'" he said.

Making Fun Memories with Fabfoto

Fabfoto's office on Tomas Morato is a simple, cozy nook, with deep couches and dim lighting that immediately puts visitors at ease. Photographer Nelwin Uy, the proprietor of the establishment candidly shares that his booming photo business would not have been possible without the SELPHY CP730, one of the models in Canon's line of portable printers designed for personal and business use.

Basically, Fabfoto offers a photo booth which clients rent during events. Guests step into the booth and operate the machine themselves. They can pose and ham it up by using some props like wigs or headbands that the booth provides. Of course, with the SELPHY CP730, guests can have their photos ready right there at the event. Aside from the bestselling photo "postcard" products from the booth, they also offer souvenir items that feature photos printed on the SELPHY CP730 like tumblers and cellphone holders.

When it comes to quality, Nelwin is impressed with what the SELPHY CP730 offers. "The printer gives you this glossy, smooth look on the prints—the quality you associate with photo labs. Plus, the printouts are coated in the printing process so they don't get damaged or torn easily", he shares. He also believes that for a machine this good, maintenance is not a problem. "You just simply change the cartridge that has both the ink and paper. The most you have to do is to occasionally check the filters to make sure they're clean. Otherwise, it will churn out pictures with minimum fuss."



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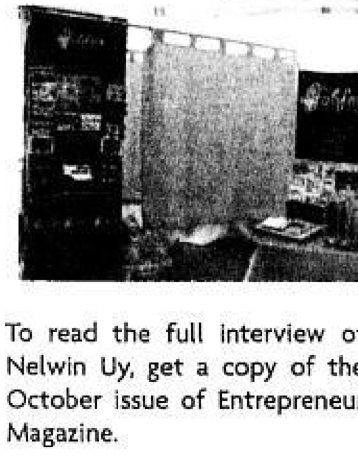

To read the full interview of Nelwin Uy, get a copy of the October issue of Entrepreneur Magazine.

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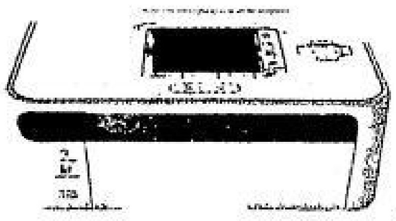

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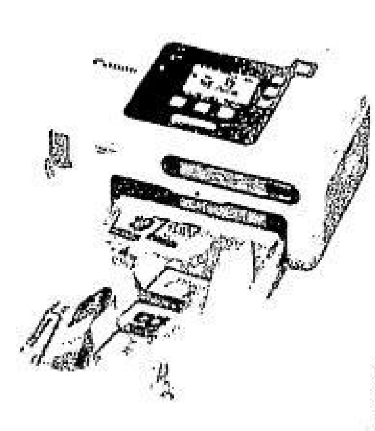
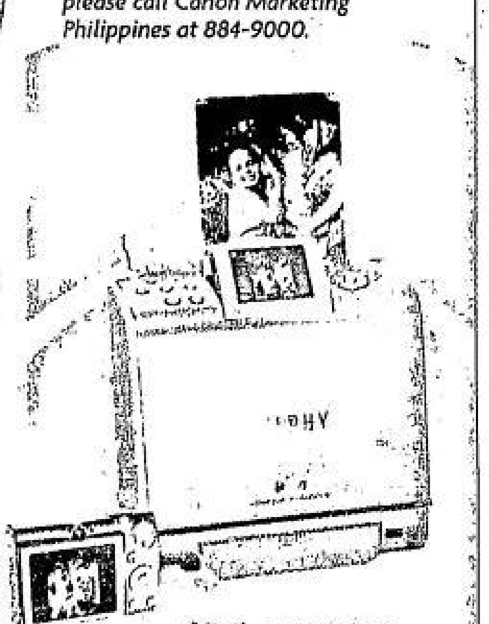


SELPHY CP730



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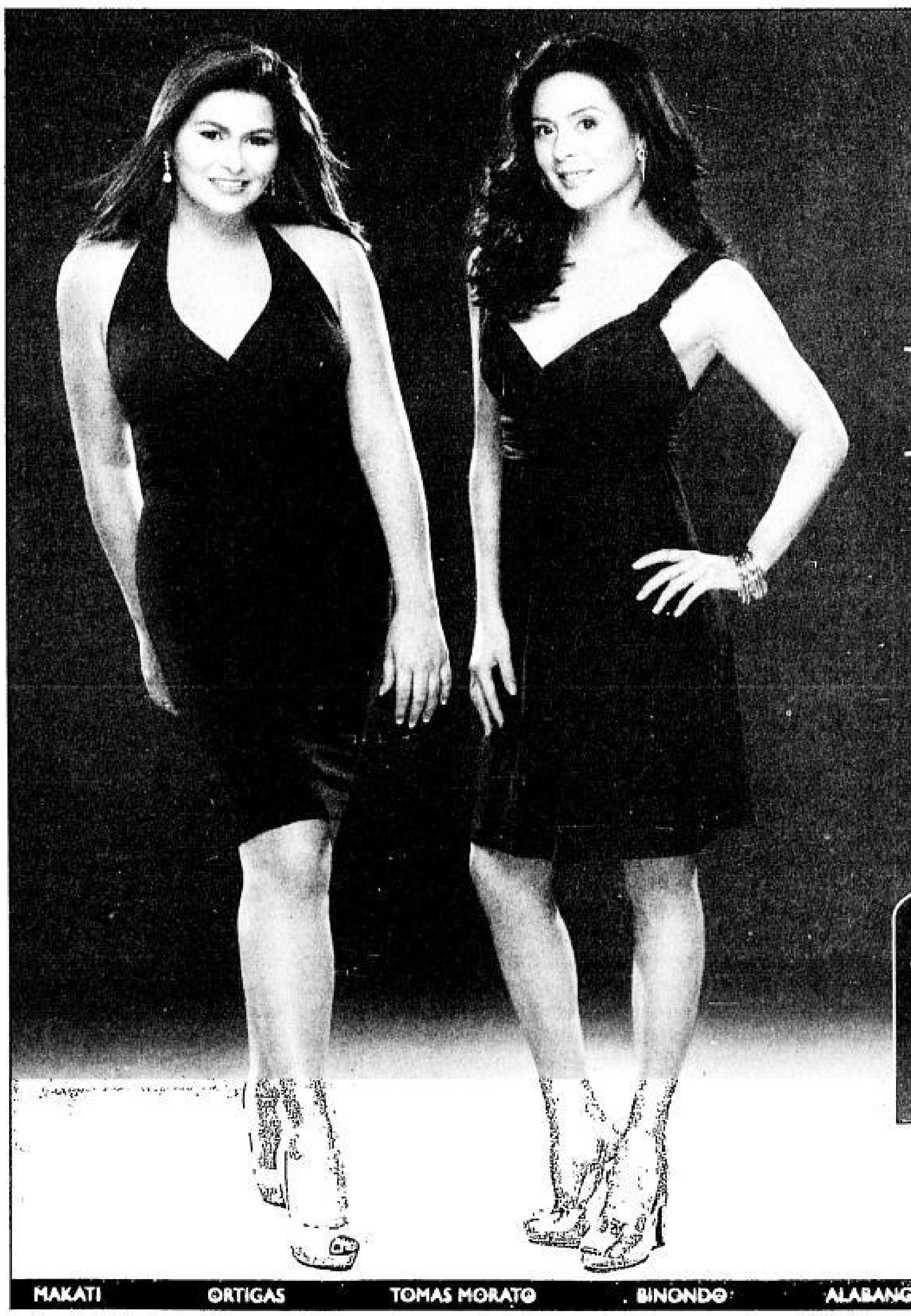

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Mercury is RISING

I rise on an issue that envelopes the earth, an issue that occupied the attention of generations of scientists but is just now arising in public consciousness.

In the last 30 years, world's average temperature has risen dramatically. Mercury is rising and Mother Earth is feverish. The number one culprit is greenhouse gas emissions from the burning of fossil fuels to feed our industries and run our motor vehicles.

This rise in world's temperature is causing dramatic climate change. The rise in the world's sea level, abnormal weather patterns, strong typhoons, tornadoes, el niño and la niña phenomena, heavy rains which cause flooding in many parts of the world, and loss of biodiversity are just some of the effects of climate change.

Rapid global warming and climate change are issues that affect our country being an archipelago in the biggest ocean of our earth – an ocean considered as the main driver of the world's climate systems.

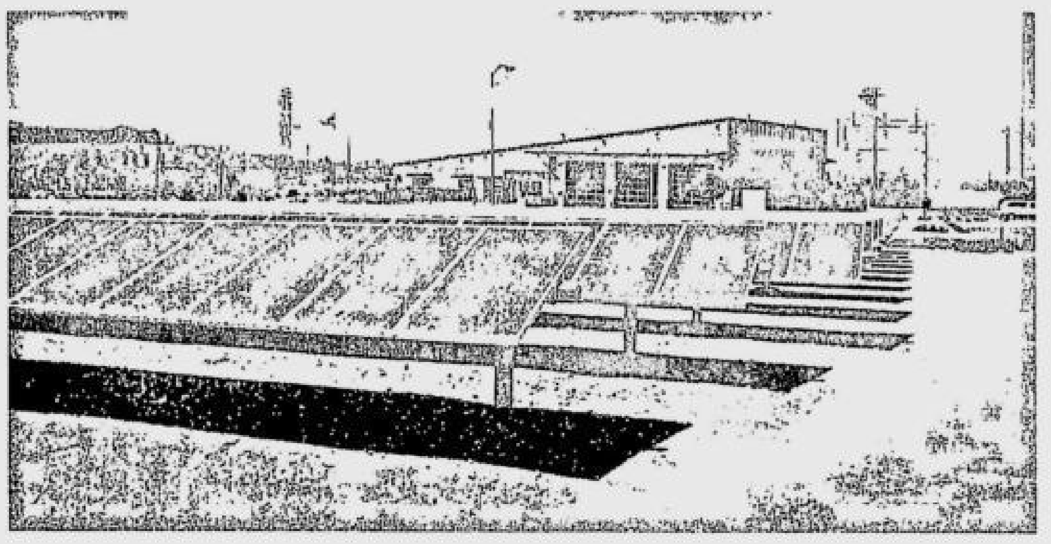
The early warning signs are: heat waves and period of unusually warm weather; ocean warming, sea-level rise and coastal flooding; glaciers melting; and Arctic and Antarctic warming. The harbingers are: spreading disease; early spring arrival; plant and animal range shifts and population changes; corral reef bleaching; intense downpours, heavy snowfalls and heavy flooding; droughts and fires.

Early warning signs are measurable events but are not so easily perceived as signs while harbingers manifest the chain of events over time and say definitively that what is being warned has come about.

Sen. Juan Miguel 'Migz' Zubiri

Excerpts from the Privilege Speech delivered August 7, 2007

We must think global ...but act local. Promote renewable energy for a cleaner world!



They are vital signs and symptoms – of a very sick earth - that scientists record and for which governments spend billions of dollars to diagnose, and of late, to heal. Let me repeat, Mother Earth is sick.

Long ago, anyone of us could have said "what of an ice cap melting that's so far away". Besides, the earth underwent cataclysmic climatic changes and it has bounced back and managed to host new species. When drastic climate change wiped out the dinosaurs, mammals and man flourished.

The debate rages on. One camp says global warming fits a normal pattern of the earth's climate since it was born and that we are merely in one of those cycles of climatic changes. The other camp says the warming is coming in convulsions and man holds most of the blame, especially since the Industrial Revolution.

What is it really? Climate change "refers to the variation in the earth's global climate or in regional climates over time. It describes changes in the variability or average state of the atmosphere over time scales ranging from decades to millions of years. These changes can be caused by processes internal to the Earth, external forces such as, variations in sunlight intensity or, more recently, human activities."

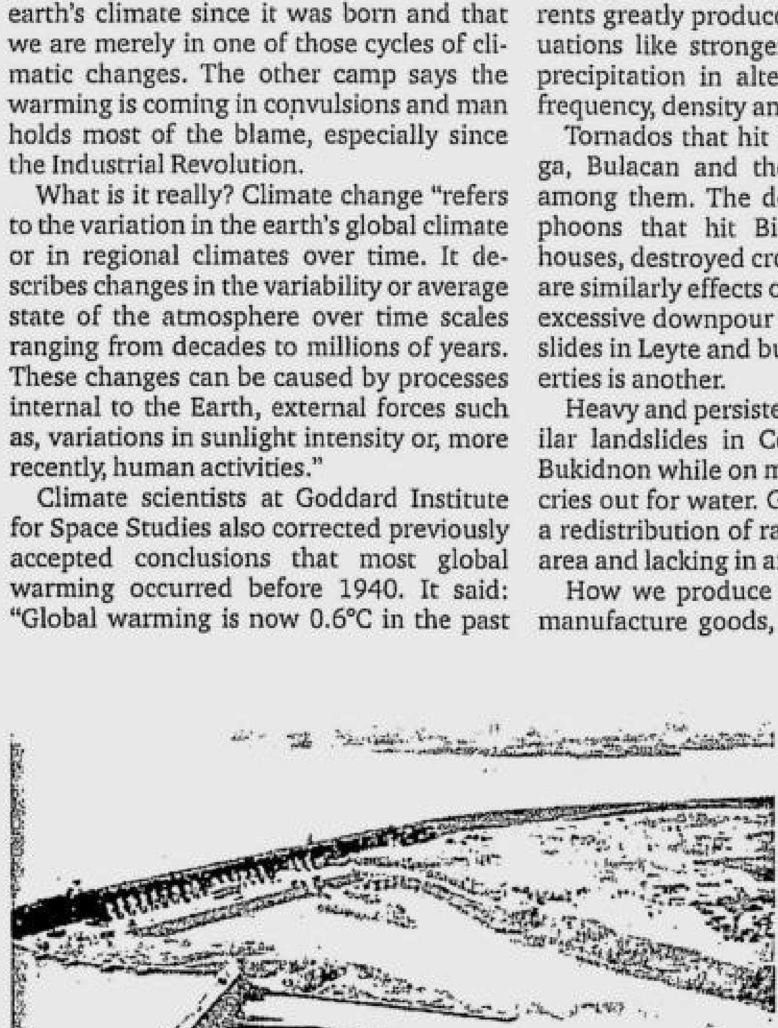
Climate scientists at Goddard Institute for Space Studies also corrected previously accepted conclusions that most global warming occurred before 1940. It said: "Global warming is now 0.6°C in the past three decades and 0.8°C in the past century. It is no longer correct to say that 'most global warming occurred before 1940'. More specifically, there was slow global warming, with large fluctuations, over the century up to 1975 and subsequent rapid warming of almost 0.2°C per decade."

It is ordinarily believed that melted ice will cool ocean water and just raise sea levels. It would. But a further life-threatening result of melting polar ice caps is that the extremely cold water sinks and pushes warmer air on the sea surface upwards. This in combination with altered ocean currents greatly produce extreme weather situations like stronger cyclones and heavy precipitation in altered patterns of type, frequency, density and coverage.

Tornados that hit Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Bulacan and the hale in Baguio are among them. The devastation of supertyphoons that hit Bicol hard demolished houses, destroyed crops and infrastructure, are similarly effects of global warming. The excessive downpour which produced landslides in Leyte and buried people and properties is another.

Heavy and persistent rainfall caused similar landslides in Compostela Valley and Bukidnon while on mainland Luzon , Albay cries out for water. Global warming causes a redistribution of rainfall: lots of it in one area and lacking in another.

How we produce and use power, farm, manufacture goods, consume our goods · and consume wastefully -had caused the thickening of the layer of Green House Gases (GHG) in the atmosphere, of which carbon dioxide is the most prevalent.

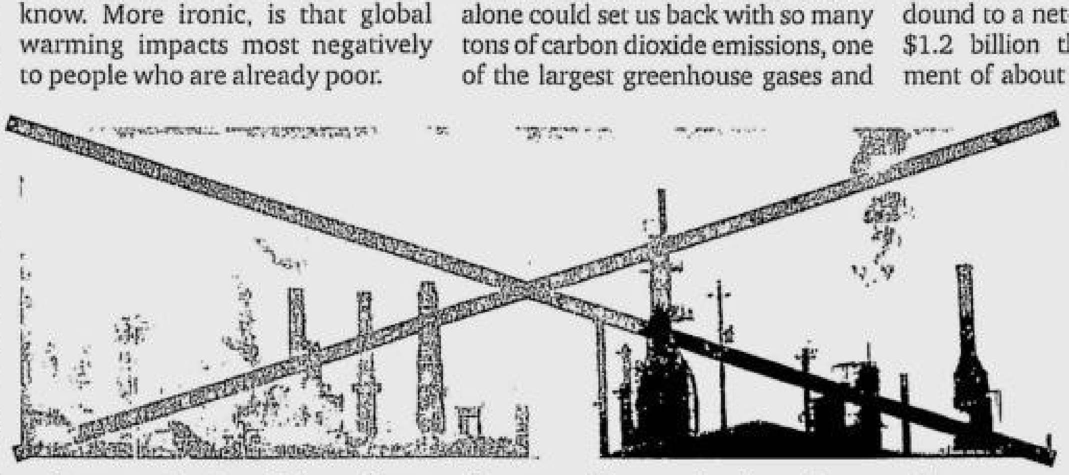


Our country's GHG emissions come from activities associated with energy - accounting for almost 50 per cent of our GHG emissions, for power and fuel; agriculture at 33 %, industry at 11 % and waste at 7 %.

The Green House Gases Hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulphur hexafluoride, carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide trap infrared waves that should have been radiated back into space. The GHG reabsorb these infrared waves, then re-emit these downward thereby causing lower temperatures to warm.

We have not been good stewards, thus our sufferings. More than that, at greater risk are those who work the soil like farmers in the vegetable bowl in the Cordilleras to the farmers in rice bowl of central Luzon. Those who harvest resources from lakes, rivers and seas. Those who eke out a living as marginal fishers from the coastal areas, or even operators of the most luxurious beach resorts. Livestock growers in the piggeries lately struck by cholera.

It is ironic that we, who control the resources to combat global warming are one of the last to know. More ironic, is that global warming impacts most negatively to people who are already poor.



Farmers in La Union, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Abra, Nueva Viscaya, Quirino, Isabela, Apayao, Benguet, Mt. Province and Kalinga have experienced decreasing rice, corn and vegetable harvests and inability to plant new crops. In May, the dry spell affected the livelihood of about 30 percent of the Cebu City's mountain residents and damaged agricultural crops.

Fishponds in Isabela "dried up." At risk too were aquaculture in Bulacan, Cavite, Pangasinan, Iloilo . Negros, Bohol, Cebu, Zamboanga, Surigao, South Cotabato, Davao and Sulu.

Another effect of climate change is increase in the ranges of disease vectors.

Doctors undertook a study that concentrated on seven landfall tropical cyclones and the relation to hospital admission of eight diseases (gastroenteritis, dengue fever, hepatitis, influenza, measles, typhoid fever, bronchopneumonia, and tetanus) for the period 1984 to 1988. They found that admissions on mosquito-borne diseases and water-borne diseases had increased due to global warming.

As a result of the lack of rainfall during the second quarter "the energy sector has increased the use of coal and oil to compensate for the limited load from hydroelectric plants. National Power Corp. said that 18.95 percent on the average of the generation mix from 2001 to 2006 came from the hydro plants, peaking last year at 23 percent. The generation mix is derived from coal, geothermal, hydro, natural gas and oil-based plants. With the decrease in the capacity of hydroelectric plants to produce power, the slack is now being taken up by coal, oil, natural gas and geothermal energy-fed power plants."

Hydroelectric plants of San Roque, Binga and Magat in Northern Luzon and Angat and Pantabangan in Central Luzon had low water levels."

Because our alternative energy resources are not yet fully tapped, this development in the energy sector alone could set us back with so many tons of carbon dioxide emissions, one of the largest greenhouse gases and the target of international treaties on climate change, the latest of which is the Kyoto Protocol.

On October 22, 2003, the Philippine Senate ratified the Kyoto Protocol. It legally binds 141 State Parties to reduce the global discharge of greenhouse gases and sets targets and timetables for developed countries to reduce their collective GHG emissions by 5% of their 1990 levels during the period 2008 – 2012. Its worldwide entry into force was on 16 February 2005.

It urged governments to improve energy efficiency, reform the energy and transportation sectors, promote renewable energy, phase out inappropriate fiscal measures and market imperfections, limit methane emissions from waste management and energy systems, and protect forests and other carbon "sinks".

What had the Philippines done since then? We have to think global and act local.. We want to save the world but we must act locally. We have done part of our share. We have passed RA 9367 or the Biofuels law last year. And, I would like to thank Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, as my counterpart in the Senate, when we championed the law in the 13th Congress.

With that law, instead of importing our oil, we can now plant 'oil' in our soil. Thus, saving the country of dollar reserves from importing fuel oils while providing our farmers alternative crops to plant and increase agricultural productivity. The use of biofuels will also reduce CO2 emissions and increase efficiency of our motor vehicles. However, that is not enough.

We are renewing our call, sounding off the alarm and raising the ante, that the Senate act fast in passing the Renewal Energy Bill which several of our colleagues have filed, as well as this representation.

This bill will ignite the development and utilization of renewable energy in the country. This will redound to a net-benefit of as much as $1.2 billion through the development of about 2,500 MW of renewable energy-based on on-grid power projects. The country will also substantially reduce its dependence and avoid high import costs of crude oil or fuels typically used by conventional power plants. But more important than the economic benefits of using renewable energy are the benefits to the environment. The country will avoid the harmful effects of GHG emissions from conventional power plants. We may even be able to sell carbon emissions credits through trading mechanisms set-up under the Kyoto Protocol.

Mr. President, distinguished colleagues, all the effects of passing this bill point to positive direction. Let us become visionary leaders, let us muster the political will and courage and have the sense of urgency in passing legislation for renewable energy.

In 2003, this Senate had demonstrated its political will and vision for our future when it ratified the Kyoto Protocol and passed the Biofuels law.

Mother Earth is seriously ill and needs intensive care. We must do our share to stop the world from hemorrhaging. It is now our time to rise again and secure our future, our children's future and the future of the generations to come.

Paid for by the Renewable Energy Coalition

RP calls for reforms in Burma

THE PHILIPPINES has reiterated its call for democratic reforms in Burma (Myanmar).

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations "would also like to see further improvement in democracy in Myanmar," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, spokesperson for President Macapagal-Arroyo, said yesterday.

"I believe that stand has not changed," Bunye told reporters.

"The President, the Philippines and some members of Asean had previously issued a very strong statement about what's happening in Myanmar," he said. (*See story in The World, Page A20*)

In a joint statement issued in Manila during their annual meeting in July, Asean foreign ministers urged Burma to make quick progress on its repeated promises to implement democracy and free political prisoners.

The Philippines and Indonesia renewed their criticism of Burma on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum meetings held in Sydney, Australia, earlier this month.

The 10-country Asean, which includes Myanmar, was concerned over the protests currently taking place in the country and its foreign ministers would likely take up the issue in a meeting in New York on Thursday, Asean Secretary General Ong Keng Yong told The Associated Press by phone from Poland on Sunday. *AP*

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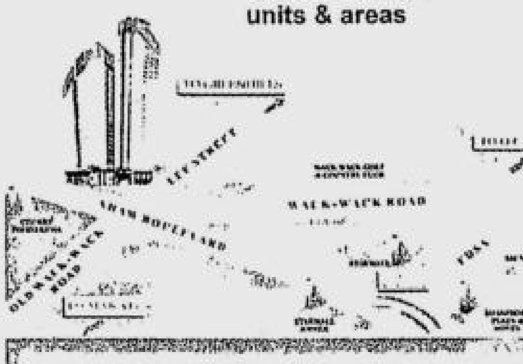

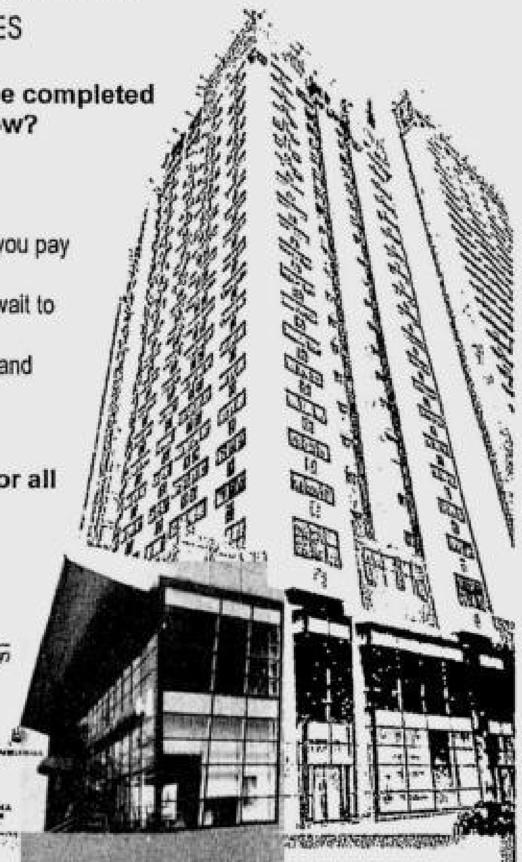

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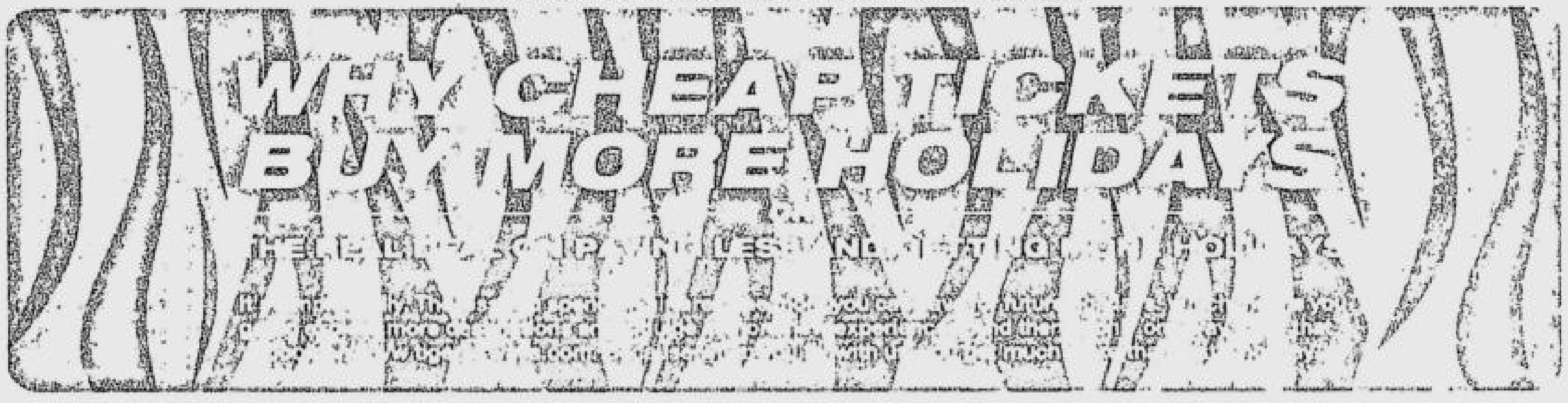

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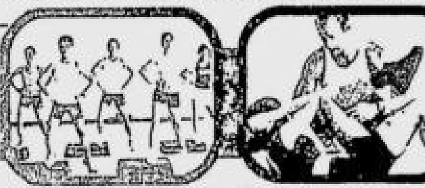

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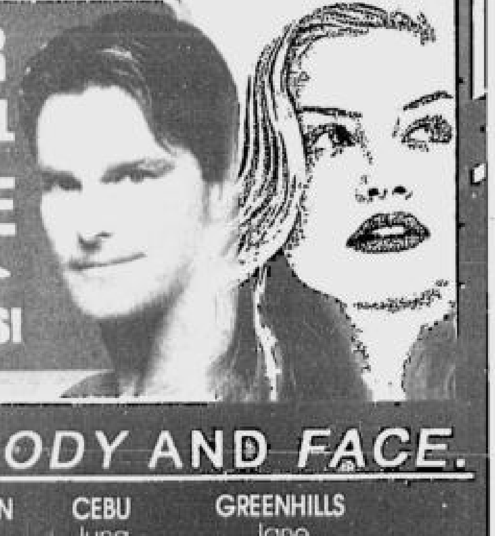

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GMA flip-flops on Neri

From page A1

retary Eduardo Ermita said he had advised Neri of the President's instructions for him to stay behind and attend the Senate hearing.

Later, Neri told ABS-CBN News that his trip to the UN headquarters in New York with Ms Arroyo had been canceled.

The announcement by Neri came as several pro-Estrada supporters gathered in front of his home in Sta. Mesa Heights in Quezon City to support him in his testimony at the Senate.

Allegations that the NBN contract was overpriced to facilitate kickbacks to senior government officials and that the President's husband and Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. were involved were aired in a Senate inquiry last week.

Neri earlier said he remained ready to testify in the Senate probe in which he is expected to confirm or deny under oath the alleged P200-million bribe offer made to him by Abalos.

President's husband a no-show

Jose Miguel Arroyo, the President's husband, has formally declined to appear before the Senate inquiry. Abalos said he would attend the hearing. He has denied brokering the deal and offering bribes.

Ms Arroyo suspended the deal over the weekend but the Supreme Court earlier stopped its implementation after it received two separate petitions to scrap the project, which is intended to create a broadband network that would link all government agencies.

Neri did not attend the Senate hearing on Thursday, citing intestinal flu as an excuse.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye yesterday told reporters that Neri was not part of the President's delegation to the UN General Assembly.

Three hours later, in a text message at about 5 p.m., Bunye said Neri was part of the delegation.

"His attendance was requested by [Foreign] Secretary (Alberto) Romulo per letter dated Friday," Bunye said.

At the hearing in the House of Representatives on the CHEd budget, Neri said: "I will come back in time, your honors, as I promised to answer all the questions."

Follow legal order

Neri said he had been told by the Department of Foreign Affairs that he might be needed on the President's trip to New York.

Asked by Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez whether he would skip the Senate hearing, Neri said: "The President is my superior ... and I don't want to violate any law.

"I guess if instructed to go and it is a legal order, I may have to follow," Neri said.

He said he was summoned to join the President as the former Neda director general for his expertise on the Millennium Development Challenge Account.

Disappointed

Neri's announcement in the House that he would forego his testimony at the Senate inquiry disappointed senators.

Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, chair of the blue ribbon committee, one of the three panels jointly investigating the NBN deal, said he would issue a subpoena to compel Neri to appear at the hearing next week.

Sen. Mar Roxas II expressed alarm over reports that both Neri and Finance Secretary Margarito Teves would be absent from tomorrow's hearing.

CHED CHAIR Romulo Neri is in a pensive mood during Monday's budget hearing at the House of Representatives.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Roxas said he received a phone call from Teves that he would not be present [tomorrow] because he was leaving with the President for New York.

"I call on the President to allow Secretary Neri to perform his paramount duty of testifying before the Senate and reveal the truth behind the ZTE broadband fiasco," he said.

Get to bottom

"We want to get to the bottom of this. Aside from the obvious anomalies as presented so far, we need to know how not to get into a mess such as this one again," Roxas said.

Sen. Pia S. Cayetano warned that Neri's nonappearance would only "stoke" more controversy in the anomalous deal.

She said Neri could shed light on whether he approved the ZTE contract or just the NBN concept and why it was converted from a build-operate-transfer deal to an outright concession loan.

"Secretary Neri holds key information which makes him perhaps the most important witness in the ongoing Senate investigation," said Pia Cayetano.

She suggested that the Senate offer Neri bodyguards to ensure his safety.

Sen. Francis Escudero said Neri was needed at the hearing, not in the United States. "What will he do there? He is needed here and not there. The President should serve the interest of the Filipinos not New Yorkers," he said.

Prepared to tell all

House Minority Leader Ronaldo Zamora said he had information that Neri was prepared to tell the senators all he knew.

"Romy will talk. Just don't expect him to volunteer information," Zamora told reporters.

"He wants to be asked questions and he wants to be under oath.... He will not lie," the minority leader said.

A congressman told the INQUIRER that Neri had already told a number of people about his conversation with Ms Arroyo after Abalos allegedly offered him P200 million in exchange for Neda approval of the ZTE deal.

"The President supposedly told him, 'Then don't accept.' Then she supposedly said 'Just approve the contract,'" the congressman said.

"(Neri) was surprised by [her] reaction. There was no hint of the President wanting to go after Abalos. (Instead) the President told him to approve [it]," he said.

Former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Felipe Medalla yesterday advised his former colleague, Neri, to show up at tomorrow's Senate inquiry and "tell the truth."

"To me, failure to appear in the Senate conveys a lot of information. If he has nothing to hide, he should show up," said Medalla, a former Neda director general.

Medalla, who left the Cabinet in 2001 and now teaches at the UP School of Economics, said snubbing the inquiry would send a very wrong message to the public.

"I'd say that a failure to show in the Senate could mean he's been pressured not to appear," he said.

Cancel deal

Senators are pushing for the cancellation of the ZTE deal.

Sen. Loren Legarda said that the Philippines and China should "jointly abrogate" the ZTE-NBN deal because "it has become too tainted, too quarrelsome, and untenable."

ZTE, China's second-largest telecoms equipment maker, has said it was "utterly disappointed" with the decision to suspend the contract.

Ms Arroyo yesterday said she had asked the Department of Transportation and Communications to seek help from the country's three major telephone companies for an alternative to the suspended project. With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

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Gov't places more China deals on hold

From page A1

hearing yesterday that he had recommended the suspension of the memorandums of agreement with Jilin Fu Hua Agricultural Science and Technology Development Co. and the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Government.

Jilin Fu Hua is expected to invest $3.8 billion in the next five to seven years in the development of one-million hectares of Philippine agricultural land for hybrid corn, rice and sorghum. This year, it has committed to complete the cultivation of 50,000 hectares of land for hybrid corn and sweet sorghum in several provinces in Cagayan Valley, Isabela, Nueva Ecija and Pangasinan.

The memorandum of agreement with the agricultural department of Guangxi Zhuang covers the development of an initial 40,000 hectares of land for cassava and sugar for ethanol production.

A third agreement with Beidahuang Seed Co. was cited in Yap's letter to Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser Pangandaman and Environment Secretary Lito Atienza on Sept. 21. Yap chairs the convergence initiative among the three departments.

Deeper consultation

Beidahuang projects involve the development of 200,000 hectares of land in the North Luzon Agribusiness Quadrangle and the identification of potential sites for agri-tourism and organic food growing.

The agreements were among those signed between the Philippines and China during the Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Leaders Summit in Manila in January.

"It is in the best interest of all parties to suspend their implementation and to go into deeper consultation in order to come up with acceptable mechanism," Yap said in his letter, excerpts of which were released by the Department of Agriculture.

Sen. Edgardo Angara, chair of the agriculture committee, welcomed Yap's move, considering that the land deals with Chinese investors had raised protests from critics who labeled these as a "sellout to foreigners" and who warned that these would put the country's food security in jeopardy.

During the hearing, Angara warned that dire implications of giving farmlands to China when there were only 3 million hectares of arable land out of the country's total of 10 million hectares of agricultural land.

China's food needs

"Whether these lands are arable or marginal, the staggering size of the land would immediately scare off farmers and consumers since it would divert agriculture production to supply the food needs of China rather than the Philippines," Angara said.

"I'm glad you are suspending it because it is not legal. No corporation or group can lease more than 1,000 hectares in our country."

CHINA'S Commerce Minister Bo Xilai and Philippine Trade Secretary Peter Favila smile at each other before a press conference at the 39th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) economic ministers meeting in Manila in this file photo taken on Aug. 26, 2007.

AFP

Yap concurred with Angara, saying there was a need to explain the deals to the public to assuage its concerns.

"Under the terms of the framework agreements, what was agreed upon was the convergence initiatives assistance in the identification of agribusiness lands for the development to the extent that the members can 'legally comply' with such provisions," Yap told Pangandaman and Atienza.

"The better side of prudence and due process calls upon us to take this course of action (suspension) to better prepare and device a clear structure, known to all with regards to facilitating investments in the Philippine rural countryside," he said.

Yap said in the phone interview that while he was still awaiting reply from the two secretaries, the suspension was already in effect as far as the agriculture department was concerned.

"Chinese authorities will understand. We're addressing problems on the mechanism and the process," he added.

Militants' reaction

Militant groups have been urging the government to scrap the deals, warning of a displacement of 1.5 million farmers from their lands.

"The RP-China agreements are patently unconstitutional. We will be reduced to nothing but second-class citizens in our own country," Rafael Mariano, Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas chair, said in a statement.

The planned CDB investment in the Clark Economic Zone "is another best kept secret of the ruling political mafia in Malacañang," said Fernando Hicap, chair of the national fisherfolk alliance Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) in a statement.

"The Beijing mission dispatched by President Macapagal-Arroyo on Sept. 14 should be compelled and forced to reveal and explain the content of that deal held in total secrecy," he said.

Airport dev't

The memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Chinese consortium, signed in Clark on April 4, entailed the undertaking of a feasibility study at no cost to the Philippine government or the state-owned Clark International Airport Corp. (CIAC), which oversees the redevelopment of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport as the country's leading international gateway for passengers and cargo.

Nestor Mangio and Victor Jose Luciano, chair and president of CIAC, said everything about the "exploratory talk" with the CDB had been transparent.

Luciano said the Sept. 14 mission in Beijing, which he, Mangio and Bases Conversion Development Authority Chair Aloysius Santos led, took along some members of the Philippine press.

"There is no deal to speak of. The Chinese consortium will still submit a feasibility study and we will have to evaluate it," Luciano told the INQUIRER.

"Our meeting with the vice governor of the CDB (Zhao Jianping) was purely exploratory," he said.

"We always emphasize to potential investors that we comply faithfully with government processes required." With a report from Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

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Contract suspension no threat to RP-China ties, says Favila

From page A1

and Commerce Minister Bo Xilai had assured each other that economic cooperation through investment and trade would not suffer a setback.

"We agreed that we, as trade ministers, would continue to work toward the further strengthening of bilateral relations despite all these developments," Favila said.

"Minister Bo and I are of the same mind that nothing should strain or get in the way of our countries' relations," he said.

In a statement, Education Secretary Jesli Lapus expressed fears that the Chinese government may eventually scrap all the deals with the Arroyo administration in light of the bad press from the NBN contract.

He said China was extending aid as a gesture of goodwill to improve its image. "Now, if Chinese aid is demonized, they might just cancel their assistance," Lapus said.

Makati Business Club (MBC) executive director Alberto A. Lim said that the suspension of the contract should not affect Philippine relations with China, saying it was not a good deal anyway.

"The NBN project is not necessarily a positive development because it is directed toward what China wants," he told the INQUIRER.

Donor-driven project

Lim described the NBN project as a donor- or lender-driven project, in which the lender has the say on what technology and which entities would be involved.

The NBN project involves the setting up of a state-of-the-art communications system to interconnect all government agencies, down to the poorest municipalities.

Favila himself witnessed the signing of an agreement for an additional $400 million in credit facility from the China Export-Import Bank, held at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel during Bo's visit last month.

Back then, Favila had explained that the additional amount in preferential buyer's credit was part of previous assurances that the Chinese government had extended to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

He said the government had previously secured $1.4 billion through this credit line from the China Eximbank, bringing the total to $1.8 billion.

Cancelation of deal

Favila said that while the additional fund was meant for the government's priority project, it was particularly for the NBN project.

Sen. Mar Roxas said in a statement that he had recommended canceling the deal altogether.

"It's not transparent, thus possibly overpriced, overdesigned," he said, adding he felt Manila's ties with China were strong enough to withstand the controversy.

The MBC, along with the Management Association of the Philippines, Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines, Foundation for Economic Freedom Inc. and Action for Economic Reforms, called for the scrapping of the deal in a statement issued Sept. 6.

The five groups said they were "appalled that the culture of impunity among government officials appears to have spread to an extent exceeding that of all past administrations."

Lim said the government did not go far enough by suspending the contract, which was "just like throwing cold water on a cracking fire which is the Senate investigation."

"This move is meant to stop the probe which the public had avidly followed," Lim said. "Why do that? Can (the contract) not stand the scrutiny of the Senate?"

Further, Lim said the suspension of the contract did not diminish business confidence in the Philippines.

"On the contrary, (the NBN issue) should improve business confidence if any wrongdoings are sorted out and those responsible are punished," Lim added.

Investor confidence

Some analysts pointed out that the Philippine move could sour investor confidence in the country.

"It seems like there is a big crack in the wall between Chinese and Philippine relations due to the ZTE deal," said Astro del Castillo, a director of the Association of Securities Analysts of the Philippines.

"Our relations will somehow be affected considering this is supposedly a major and serious contract," he said.

Economist Bing Icamina from AYC Consultants said confidence might be affected, although he argued China still had surplus cash to invest.

"The concern now is dealing with the government on a contract basis, given this experience," he said. "Essentially, you have to be careful when dealing with government agencies."

Castillo said the government should punish those found guilty of corruption over the deal, adding "good governance and transparency" were essential to attracting foreign investment.

"If there is no level playing field, you will see an immediate loss of confidence," he said. *With reports from Kristine L. Alave, AFP*

Stop recruiting tribal folk, bishops tell gov't, NPA

By Beverly T. Natividad

THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONference of the Philippines (CBCP) has appealed to both the government and the communist New People's Army (NPA) to stop the recruitment of indigenous peoples into their respective armed units and to declare tribal lands as zones of peace.

Laoag Bishop Sergio L. Utleg, chair of the Episcopal Commission on Indigenous Peoples (ECIP), said in a statement that they were alarmed over the "systemic recruitment" of indigenous peoples into the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu), Civilian Volunteers Organization (CVO), the NPA and other paramilitary groups.

"Let us not add more to their suffering by making their communities permanent battlegrounds. Let their communities become zones of peace—free from armed men," said Utleg.

"We call on the government and the NPA to respect the dignity of the indigenous people, who are sons and daughters of God, by stopping their widespread recruitment," said the CBCP in a statement.

Utleg said that over the past months they had been receiving reports of rampant recruitment in tribal communities in the Sierra Madre Mountains and in the provinces of Bulacan, Quezon, Aurora, Nueva Ecija, Zambales, Agusan, Bukidnon, the Zamboanga peninsula, North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and Davao City.

Accordingly, he said, indigenous recruits were being given sacks of rice and mobile phones to act either as informants for the military or the NPA. Due to the active recruitment, he said, many upland youngsters are now suspected of being either NPA sympathizers or military assets.

"To involve them in military or NPA activities is to make their communities potential permanent battlegrounds," said Utleg.

Utleg reminded both sides that the indigenous peoples were supposed to be accorded special protection under existing laws. The Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law between the government and the NPA prohibits the participation of civilians in military operations.

Prelate rues more 'broken homes'

By Leila B. Salaverria

BROKEN FAMILIES HAVE BECOME a "common occurrence" in the Philippines and are no longer limited to high-profile people or those in show business, a prominent Catholic bishop has lamented.

Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz, in a statement posted on his website over the weekend, said children were usually the victims of the failed unions, which he attributed to distorted values and a downgraded view of marriage in this predominantly Catholic country.

It is unfortunate, he said, that even marriages of people with strong Filipino family traditions and culture do not last, and unions celebrated with much fanfare often end up in civil annulments.

"Both perception and reports have it that marriages in the country are becoming less and less stable, and more and more prone to failure," wrote Cruz. This, he said, did not refer only to the marriages of people in the entertainment industry, but of ordinary Filipinos.

According to Cruz, the "serious distortion of ethical principles and moral values" was the culprit.

"A good number of men and women get married for the wrong reasons, for worldly motives and with unrealistic expectations. There is practically nothing sacred about human sexuality. Nor is marriage sincerely considered a lifelong covenant," he said.

This watered-down view of the marital vow and the lack of faith among couples weaken their marriage, he said.

Prayer, according to Cruz, is often viewed as a sign of weakness and something people only resort to in times of trouble; religious rituals are deemed old-fashioned.

"Going to Church is looked upon as a practice observed simply by old women and little children, the poor and the sick," he said.

10,000th Botika ng Barangay opens in QC

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH HAS opened its 385th Botika ng Barangay in Metro Manila, bringing the number of its low-priced pharmacies to 10,000 nationwide.

The 10,000th BnB was launched in Barangay Pinagkaisahan in Cubao, Quezon City, yesterday in line with the commemoration of the 29th year of the Generics Law.

This would give more indigent Filipinos increased access to "low-priced yet effective medicine," said Health Secretary Francisco Duque III in a statement.

The DOH is set to open similar pharmacies in Metro Manila soon, he added.

The BnB project was launched in 2003 "to ensure accessibility to low-priced generic over-the-counter drugs and eight prescription drugs."

The project, according to Duque, is part of the DOH's "Half-Priced Medicines Program" which aims to bring down the cost of medicine to half their 2001 prices. The BnB serves as the distribution network of the DOH in coordination with the Philippine International Trading Corporation (PITC).

In putting up these pharmacies, the DOH provides local governments with seed capital of P25,000 worth of drugs and medicines through the PITC. The medicines for the BnB project are mostly imported from India and Pakistan but it also carries local branded generic drugs.

The DOH trains operators of the BnB. The DOH also submits the imported drugs for quality assurance tests to the Bureau of Food and Drugs.

Medicines commonly sold in a BnB include amoxicillin, cotrimoxazole, paracetamol and multivitamins for children.

Amoxicillin, for example, is sold at P2.02 per capsule in BnBs compared to P5.10 in other drugstores. Paracetamol, on the other hand, is sold at P0.46 per tablet compared to P1.15 in other drugstores.

The PITC earlier said it was eyeing 11,000 BnBs by 2007. *Beverly T. Natividad*

Correction

IN THE SEPT. 24 ISSUE, the article on Page A2—"Edita Burgos takes case to UN"—misspelled the names of two University of the Philippines students who have been missing for more than a year. The students are Sherlyn—not Sherryln—Cadapan and Karen Empeño—not Empeno.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, September 25, 2007
25th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Ezra 6:7-8, 12, 14-20
Gospel: Luke 8:19-21

Then his mother and his relatives came to him, but they could not get to him because of the crowd. Someone told him, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside and wish to meet you." Then Jesus answered, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it."

Commentary

King Darius lets the people work on the temple and be repaid from the royal revenue! The people work, encouraged by the Word of God through the prophets with them: Haggai and Zechariah. They finish a portion of the temple (nothing like the earlier one's majesty) and celebrate the dedication by keeping the feast of the Passover for the first time back in Jerusalem since it was destroyed. They have come back and God has used foreigners who had conquered them and many other peoples to allow them this privilege, and to help them, though they did not believe in the God of Israel.

Who are the true brothers and sisters, mothers of Jesus? Not anyone bound by blood or marriage but those who hear the Word of God in Jesus, or are inspired by God and obey it—beyond any line of blood, marriage, religion, nation, economic bracket, personal connection. We are all called to be the family of God. We must remember and pray for and work with all peoples as the children of the one Father, kin to Jesus in the Spirit.

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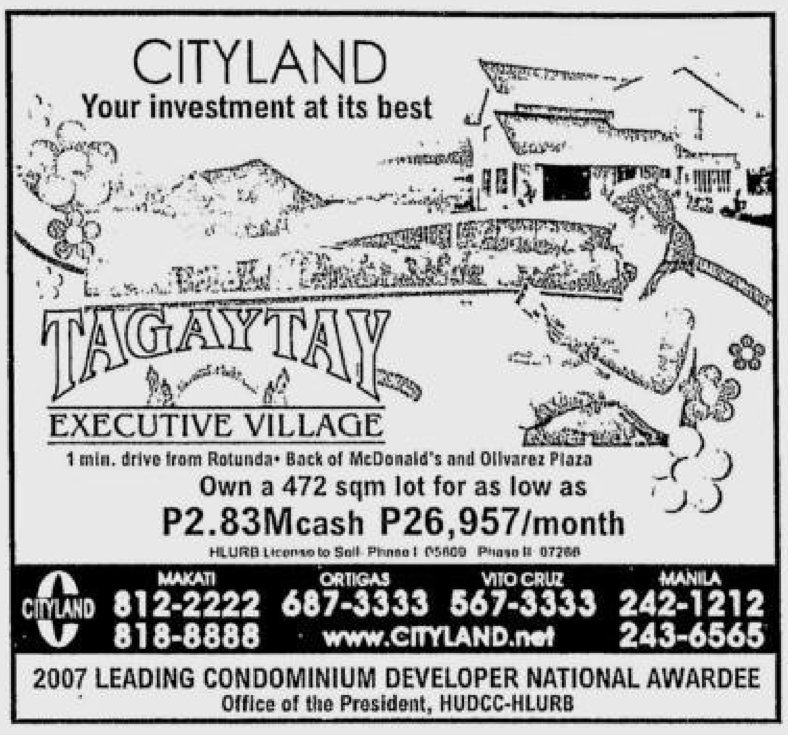
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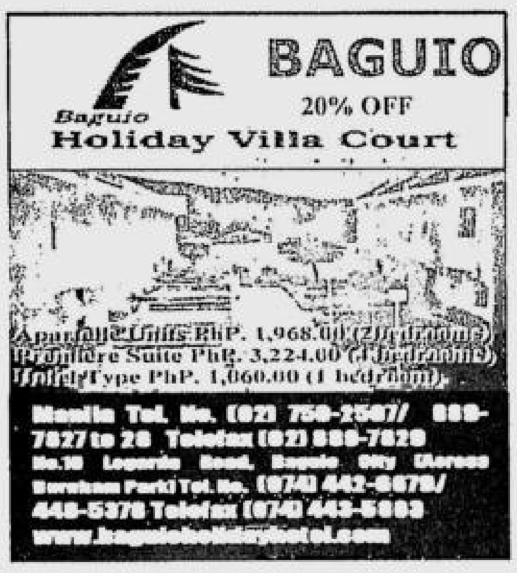
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Manila Water service upgrade in San Juan and Mandaluyong

Manila Water will conduct service improvement projects which will cause temporary water supply interruption in the following portions of San Juan and Mandaluyong:

Schedule: 10:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 26, 2007 up to 6:00 a.m., Thursday, September 27, 2007.

Affected areas:

San Juan: Barangays Little Baguio; Addition Hills; Santolan; Valencia; North and West Greenhills; Horseshoe; Pasadena; Corazon De Jesus and Pleasant Hills.

Mandaluyong: Addition Hills; Pleasant Hills; San Jose; Plainview and Hagdang Bato Libis.

Manila Water Company is advising all residents of the said areas to store enough water to supply their needs during the interruption period.

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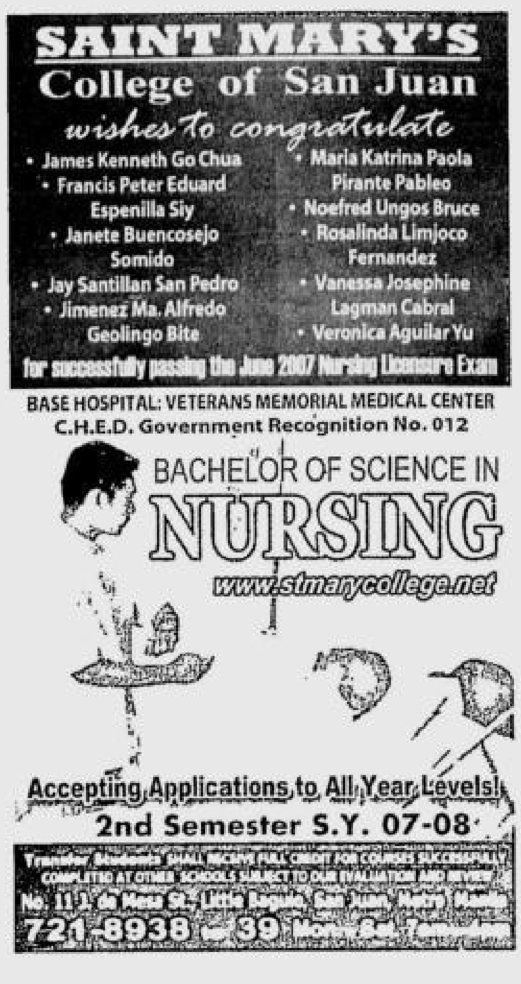
(PDI - Sept. 25, 2007)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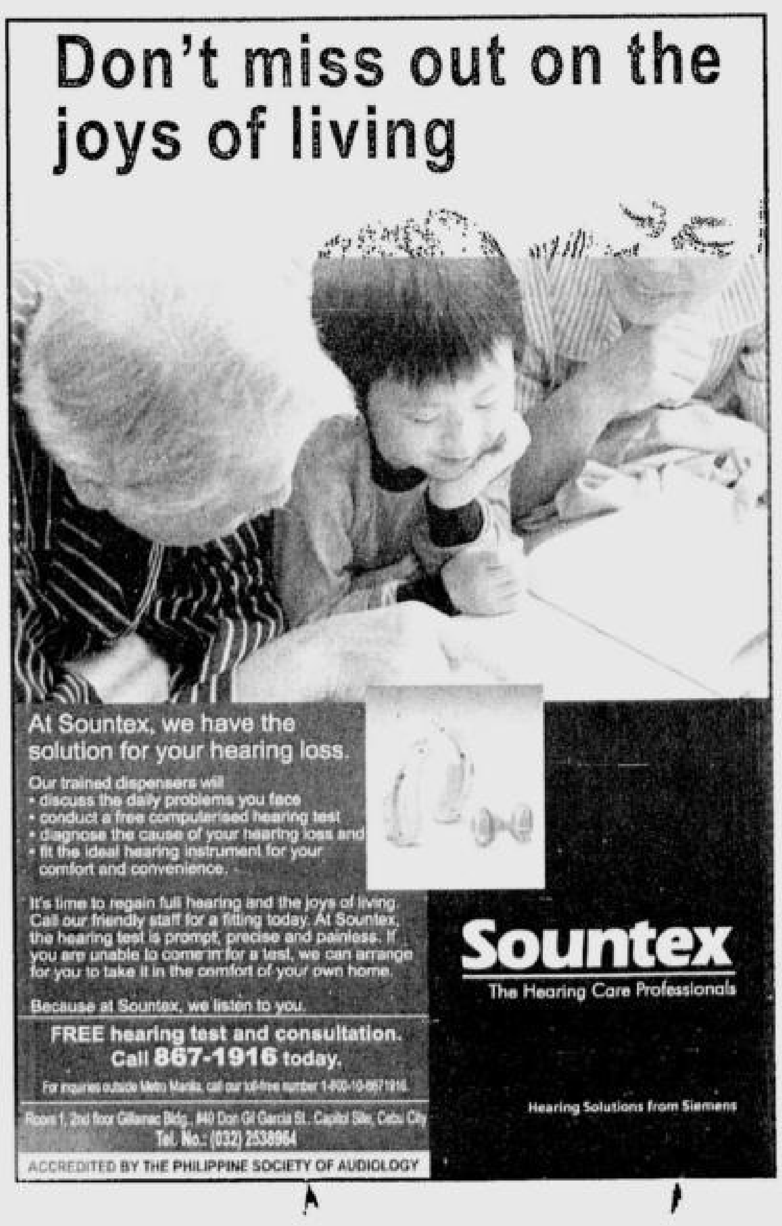
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Erap may get to keep P1B of ill-gotten assets

From page A1

lute pardon)," Puno said in a chance interview after attending a budget hearing at the Senate.

Two parameters

Puno said he was authorized by President Macapagal-Arroyo to negotiate a pardon with Estrada but that she set down two parameters.

"One, it has to be brought to her official attention and, second, that a pardon (should) be validly based and issued," he said. "The President is determined to follow the pulse of the people on this matter."

Puno stressed that "everything is subject to the decisions" of Ms Arroyo and Estrada.

"I think our final recommendation will be coming very soon," he said.

The Sandiganbayan on Sept. 12 convicted Estrada of plunder and ordered the forfeiture to the government of cash representing Estrada's "jueteng" payoffs amounting to P545.29 million with interest, including the P200 million deposited in the name of the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation; the P189-million commission from the purchase of Belle Corp. shares that ended up in the so-called Jose Velarde account, and the 5,192.88 sq.m. "Boracay Mansion" in New Manila, Quezon City.

No waiver

Puno said past discussions with Estrada had been "very positive."

"I hope by next week we can have lunch at Polk Street (Estrada's residence)," he said.

Estrada's son, Senate President Pro Tempore Jinggoy Estrada, is attending today's meeting.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio said his office would strongly oppose a pardon for Estrada if it would involve a waiver on his liability for his "plundered" wealth.

"That is not a subject of negotiation. His civil liability is a nonnegotiable matter. It has to be settled," Villa-Ignacio told the INQUIRER.

"There is a rule that even if it's an absolute pardon granted to the convict, the civil liability [remains]. Otherwise the message the [government] is trying to tell future public officials is that they could amass billions of pesos, get away with it and enjoy the fruits of their 'labor,'" he said.

FORMER President Joseph Estrada is escorted to a helicopter to be flown back to his rest house in Tanay after the Sandiganbayan found him guilty of plunder in this file photo taken on Sept. 12, 2007. EDWIN BACASMAS

Show of remorse

Villa-Ignacio also said Malacañang could not grant an absolute pardon that would totally disregard Estrada's guilt because the court had already pronounced judgment.

"(Estrada) can always say that he is innocent, but it will not change records of the case finding him guilty," he said.

Villa-Ignacio added: "Let's not discuss a pardon at the moment. Maybe some other time when there is already an expression of repentance and willingness to give back to the government his illegally acquired assets."

Former Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo said he was actually open early on to Estrada being pardoned but would now oppose it if it would be Estrada who would set the conditions for his release.

Marcelo said pardoning Estrada according to the latter's terms "would erase everything we (in the prosecution) worked hard for over the last six years."

"It will be a step backward," he said.

Not on Erap's terms

"It's the government that should be imposing terms for pardon, not him," Marcelo said.

"There should be an admission of guilt, an expression of contrition, full restitution (recovery of Estrada's assets) and conditions on good behavior," said Marcelo, who once headed the public prosecution panel in Estrada's trial but who has returned to private law practice.

The pardon Malacañang is reportedly preparing to give Estrada has emboldened Edsa II forces in their demand to also make Ms Arroyo account for what they call "far worse cases of plunder."

PlunderWatch, the group that helped initiate the plunder case against Estrada, condemned the pardon offer.

Fr. Joe Dizon, the group's spokesperson, and fellow PlunderWatch convenor Carol Araullo said Ms Arroyo was seeking to pardon Estrada to prepare for her own future.

What absolute pardon means

"In the eyes of most people, she's next," Dizon told the INQUIRER, citing the corruption scandals under the Arroyo administration.

Acting Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera does not see how granting absolute pardon to Estrada could involve no admission of guilt in his plunder case, which is what he wants.

According to Devanadera, absolute pardon means the restoration of a convicted man's civil and political rights.

Asked about Estrada's insistence on no admission of guilt, Devanadera said in Filipino: "How will that happen? He's already convicted."

She also said an absolute pardon would not erase a convict's record.

"Absolute pardon is the restoration of civil and political rights," she said. *With reports from Volt Contreras, Christian V. Esguerra, Michael Lim Ubac and Leila S. Salaverria*

Master of mime

From page A1

manuel Vacca announced on French radio on Sunday. Vacca gave no details but paid homage to the "total love" Marceau invested in his craft.

Wearing white face paint, soft shoes and a battered hat topped with a red flower, Marceau, through his alter-ego Bip the Clown, played out the human comedy without ever uttering a word. Offstage, he was famously chatty.

"Never get a mime talking. He won't stop," he once said.

With his lithe gestures and pliant facial expressions, Marceau gave life to a wide spectrum of characters, from a peevish waiter to a lion tamer to an old woman knitting and, of course, to the best-known, Bip.

A French Jew who, unlike his father, escaped deportation to a Nazi death camp during World War II, Marceau worked with the French Resistance to protect Jewish children, and later used the memories of his own life to feed his art.

Marceau single-handedly revived the art of mime, which dates to antiquity and continued until the 19th century through the Italian Commedia dell'Arte, or improvised theater.

Biggest inspiration

His biggest inspiration was Charlie Chaplin. Marceau, in turn, inspired countless young performers—Michael Jackson borrowed his famous "moonwalk" from a Marceau sketch, "Walking Against the Wind."

In one of his most poignant and philosophical acts, "Youth, Maturity, Old Age, Death," Marceau wordlessly showed the passing of an entire life in just minutes.

He took his art to stages across the world, performing in Asia, Europe and the United States, his "second country," where he first appeared in 1955 and returned every two years. He took his art to Cuba for the first time in September 2005.

"France loses one of its most eminent ambassadors," French President Nicolas Sarkozy said in a statement. Prime Minister Francois Fillon praised Marceau as "the master" with the rare gift of "being able to communicate with each and everyone beyond the barriers of language."

The son of a butcher, he was born Marcel Mangel on March 22, 1923, in Strasbourg, France. He fled with some family members to the southwest when the Nazis marched into eastern France during World War II, and changed his

to Marceau to hide his Jewish ori

MARCEL MARCEAU performs in
best-known mime artist, who for
without saying a word, died at ag

French Resistance

With his brother Alain, Mar
came active in the French Res
altering children's identity
changing birth dates to trick
into thinking they were too you
deported. Because he spoke En
was recruited as liaison offic
Gen. George S. Patton's army.

However, his father Charles
love of music helped plant the
Marceau's craft, was caught in
net and was sent in 1944 to the A
concentration camp where he dic

The somber experiences w
flected in some of Marceau's lat
Even the character Bip, who
butterflies in his debut, took
grand themes of humanity.

Charles, a baritone with a
song, had introduced his son
world of music and theater at
age. The boy was captivated

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For sale: Spacious missile base for

From page A1

derground network of tunnels and rooms but no atomic warheads, is for sale in a remote corner of the United States.

The warheads and missiles went when the US government abandoned the Titan bases in the 1970s.

Located near the remote Moses Lake in the northwest state of Washington, the former Larsen military base includes 4,000 square meters of "usable" space on 23 hectares of land, and the owner is only asking for $1.5 million—which might buy a small home in Hollywood.

The seller, Bari Hotchkiss, sees the base as a "gorgeous" property and potential resort. He has put it up for sale on the eBay auction site.

"We used to use it as a summer camp, for our kids and their friends," Hotchkiss told Agence France Presse.

"The only limit is imagination. We've always wanted to see it turn into summer camp or resort camp," he said.

Excellent condition

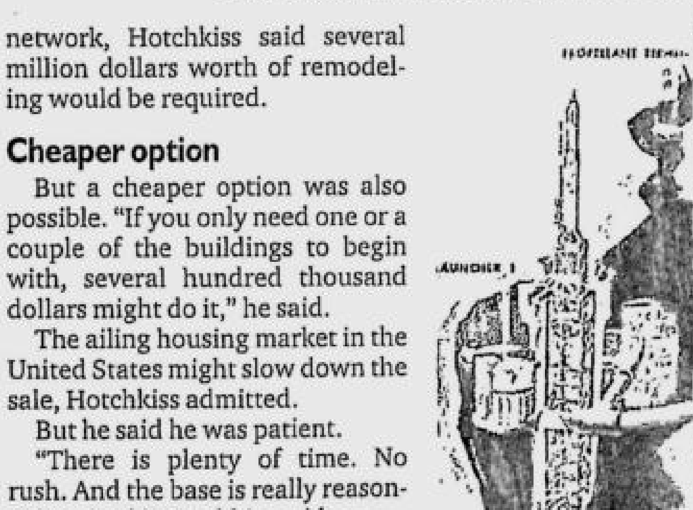
The Los Angeles investor bought the former base 10 years ago from owners who had purchased the property in the 1970s when the US government concluded the Titan missiles had become obsolete.

Hotchkiss said there were 18 former Titan bases and nearly all of them were sold off, but—sounding like most proud property owners—he said his base was in excellent condition.

"Most of those former bases are much much smaller, and most of them have water problems with water leaking in them. So they're filled with water or so wet there is terrible rust, and ours is dry, and portions of our missile base look like it's built last year," he said.

"It is kind of like a big shopping center underground that needs to be refurbished," Hotchkiss said.

To use the entire underground network, Hotchkiss said several million dollars worth of remodeling would be required.



Cheaper option

But a cheaper option was also possible. "If you only need one or a couple of the buildings to begin with, several hundred thousand dollars might do it," he said.

The ailing housing market in the United States might slow down the sale, Hotchkiss admitted.

But he said he was patient.

"There is plenty of time. No rush. And the base is really reasonable priced," Hotchkiss said.

'Ultimate home'

There is competition, however.

The website missilebases.com offers up a similar underground base for Titan missiles outside of Denver, Colorado, touted as a "very rare piece of history" with mountain views and only 20 minutes from the local airport. All this for the asking price of $1.8 million in cash.

According to the website, this base is "the ultimate home" offering "the utmost security," while providing a chance for the buyer to enjoy "your own underground city."

The website offers other bases for sale, which it calls the "castles of the 20th century." Desig
stand nuclear attack,
properties "bring new
the word 'shelter.'"

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now rests in eternal silence

Santiago, Chile, in this 2005 file photo. The world's 0 years moved audiences around the world 84 on Sunday. REUTERS

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ove of to the n early by the

silent film stars of the era—Chaplin, Buster Keaton and the Marx brothers.

Marcel's life as a performer began with the liberation of Paris from the Nazis. He enrolled in Charles Dullin's School of Dramatic Art, studying with the renowned mime Etienne Decroux.

On a tiny stage at the Theatre de Poche, a smoke-filled Left Bank cabaret, he sought to perfect the style of mime that would become his trademark.

Brith of Bip

Bip—Marceau's on-stage persona—was born in 1947.

Marceau once said that Bip was his alter ego, a sad-faced double whose eyes lit up with childlike wonder as he discovered the world. Bip was a direct descendant of the 19th-century harlequin, but his clownish gestures, according to Marceau, were inspired in part by Chaplin and Keaton.

Marceau likened his character to a modern-day Don Quixote "alone in a fragile world filled with injustice and beauty."

Dressed in a white sailor suit, a top hat—a red rose perched on top—Bip covered the gamut of human experience, and emotion, from going to war to running a matrimonial service.

In one famous sketch, "Public Garden," Marceau played all the characters in a park, from little boys playing ball to old women with knitting needles.

In 1949, Marceau's newly formed mime troupe was the only one of its kind in Europe. But it was only after a hugely successful tour across the United States in the mid-1950s that Marceau received the acclaim that would make him an international star.

Film appearances

"I have a feeling that I did for mime what (Andres) Segovia did for the guitar, what (Pablo) Casals did for the cello," he once told The Associated Press in an interview. Marceau started his own company, then in 1978 the International School of Mime-Drama.

In the past decades, he took Bip from Mexico to China to Australia. He also made film appearances—the most famous was Mel Brooks' 1976 film "Silent Movie," in which he had the only line of dialogue: "Non!"

A perforated ulcer nearly killed Marceau in the Soviet Union in December 1985. He was rushed home to Paris in critical condition, but bounced back to the stage five months later.

As he aged, Marceau kept performing, never losing the agility that made him famous.

On top of his Legion of Honor and his countless honorary degrees, he was invited to be a United Nations goodwill ambassador for a 2002 conference on aging.

"If you stop at all when you are 70 or 80, you cannot go on," he told the Associated Press in an interview in 2003. "You have to keep working."

Marceau was married three times and had four children. Funeral arrangements were not immediately known. *AP*

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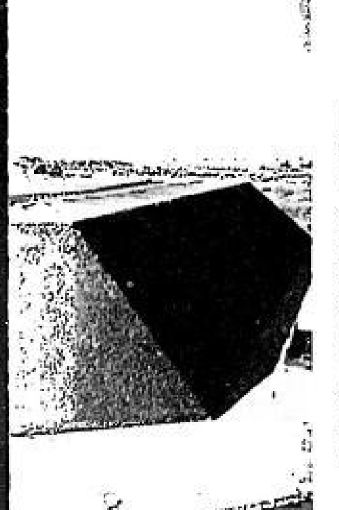
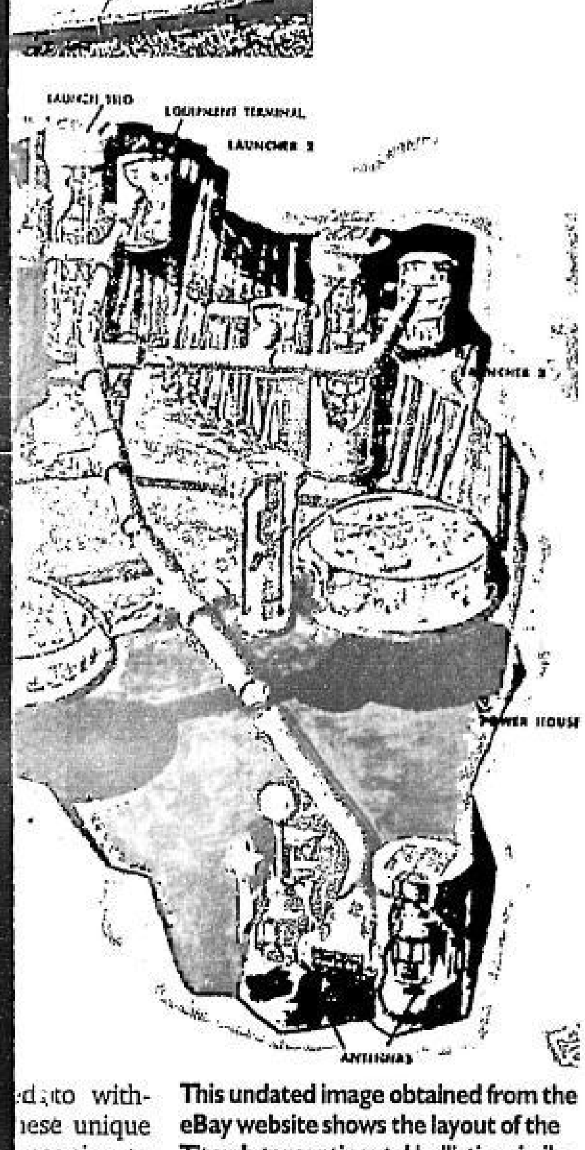


THIS UNDATED image obtained from the eBay website shows the Titan Intercontinental ballistic missile facility at Lake Moses, Washington. The 1950s facility has 4,180 square meters of usable space but needs a little work. AFP



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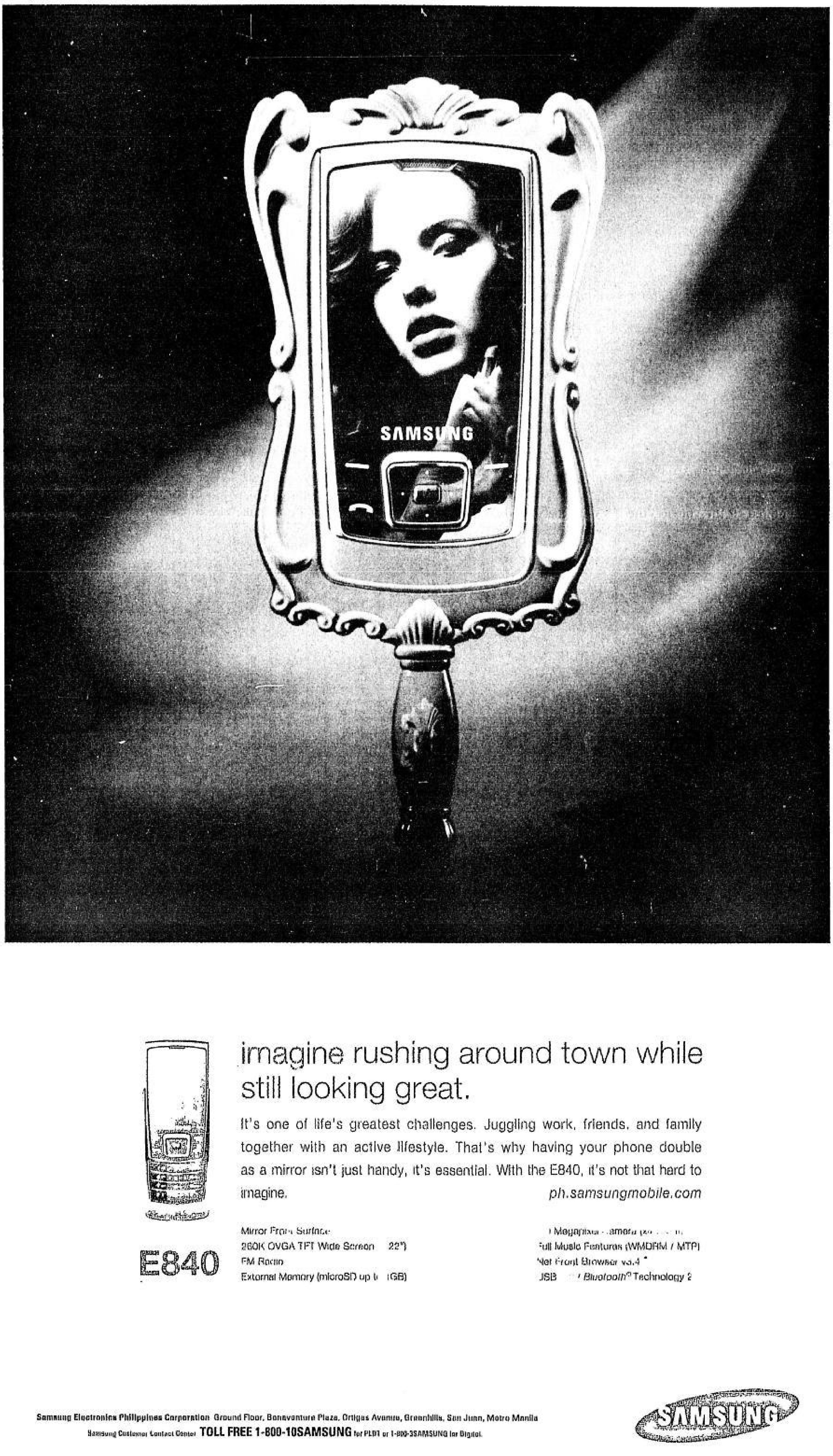
This undated image obtained from the eBay website shows the layout of the Titan Intercontinental ballistic missile facility at Lake Moses, Washington. AFP



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Pardon for plunderer?

EDITORIAL

IT'S ONLY THE PHILIPPINES WHERE A PERSON convicted of a crime sets the condition for his pardon, instead of the chief executive, representing the government, setting the condition. We are seeing it in the case of disgraced former President Joseph Estrada, who said he would accept executive clemency only if it comes in the form of an absolute pardon. An absolute pardon releases the wrongdoer from punishment and restores the offender's civil rights without qualification.

We cannot understand the hurry in wanting to grant pardon or amnesty to Estrada who was convicted of plunder less than two weeks ago, after a six-year trial marked by delaying tactics by the defense. Presidential aspirants and legislative and executive officials are falling all over themselves proposing pardon or amnesty for Estrada to promote, they say, the cause of national reconciliation, peacemaking and national reunification. What about the cause of the rule of law, justice, and crime and punishment? What about the cause of retribution for the highest official of the land found guilty of betrayal of the public trust? Does anyone give a hoot about these things?

Estrada's insistence on an absolute pardon shows that he does not believe he is guilty of the crime charged. The 212-page decision of the Sandiganbayan very clearly showed that he committed plunder by amassing P545 million from illegal gambling payoffs and a P189-million commission from stock market purchases using the SSS and GSIS funds. And yet he would have all these offenses wiped out from the record, and make it appear that he did not commit any crime against the people whose interest and welfare he was supposed to promote and protect as president.

Political expediency—that seems to be the paramount interest now. The government, judging from the statements and actions of the highest officials, would serve full pardon to Estrada on a silver platter to promote reconciliation and unity and stave off any move to destabilize the presidency. It is ironic that the latest statements regarding the grant of pardon to Estrada were made this month, the Rule of Law Month. The thinking of those who cry for pardon for Estrada seems to be: Justice and the rule of law be damned!

Estrada and his lawyers have chosen to follow the legal process, and have filed a motion for reconsideration before the Sandiganbayan. If the anti-graft court denies his motion, they can elevate the case to the Supreme Court. It would be best if they just continued on their present course. If, as they contend, Estrada is not guilty, then there is the possibility that the conviction could be reversed in the high court. Or, if it affirms the verdict, then we would have a final conviction that is a condition for the grant of a pardon. Estrada went through a six-year trial, no thanks to the delaying tactics of his lawyers. He can wait two or three more years while the wheels of justice continue to grind.

Even assuming that the appeals process is discontinued, which would mean that the conviction by the Sandiganbayan is a final conviction, making Estrada eligible for pardon, three or four months after the verdict is too short a waiting period for pardon to be granted. A short period indicates an almost indecent haste to mollify a person who has done a grievous wrong to his people.

In South Korea, former military dictators Chun Doo-hwan and Roh Tae-woo were pardoned in 1987 after spending two years in prison. Chun had been sentenced to life imprisonment and Roh to 17 years for their roles in the 1979 military coup that brought Chun to power, for the massacre of the pro-democracy protesters in Kwangju in 1980 and for the collection of millions of dollars in bribes from businessmen. A pardon after two years in South Korea, but here in the Philippines a pardon after only three or four months!

The culture of impunity is becoming embedded in the national psyche and national life. One can commit anything—extrajudicial killing, massive graft, plunder, etc.—and go scotfree, free to continue committing other crimes, provided one has influence, political clout and money. A pardon for Estrada will only promote the cause of impunity and encourage other high-ranking government officials to commit graft in the expectation that if prosecuted and found guilty later, they can always obtain a pardon. Is this the message we want to give to government officials and employees who are now supposedly engaged in an anti-graft campaign? Is this the example that we want to show to our generation and future generations?

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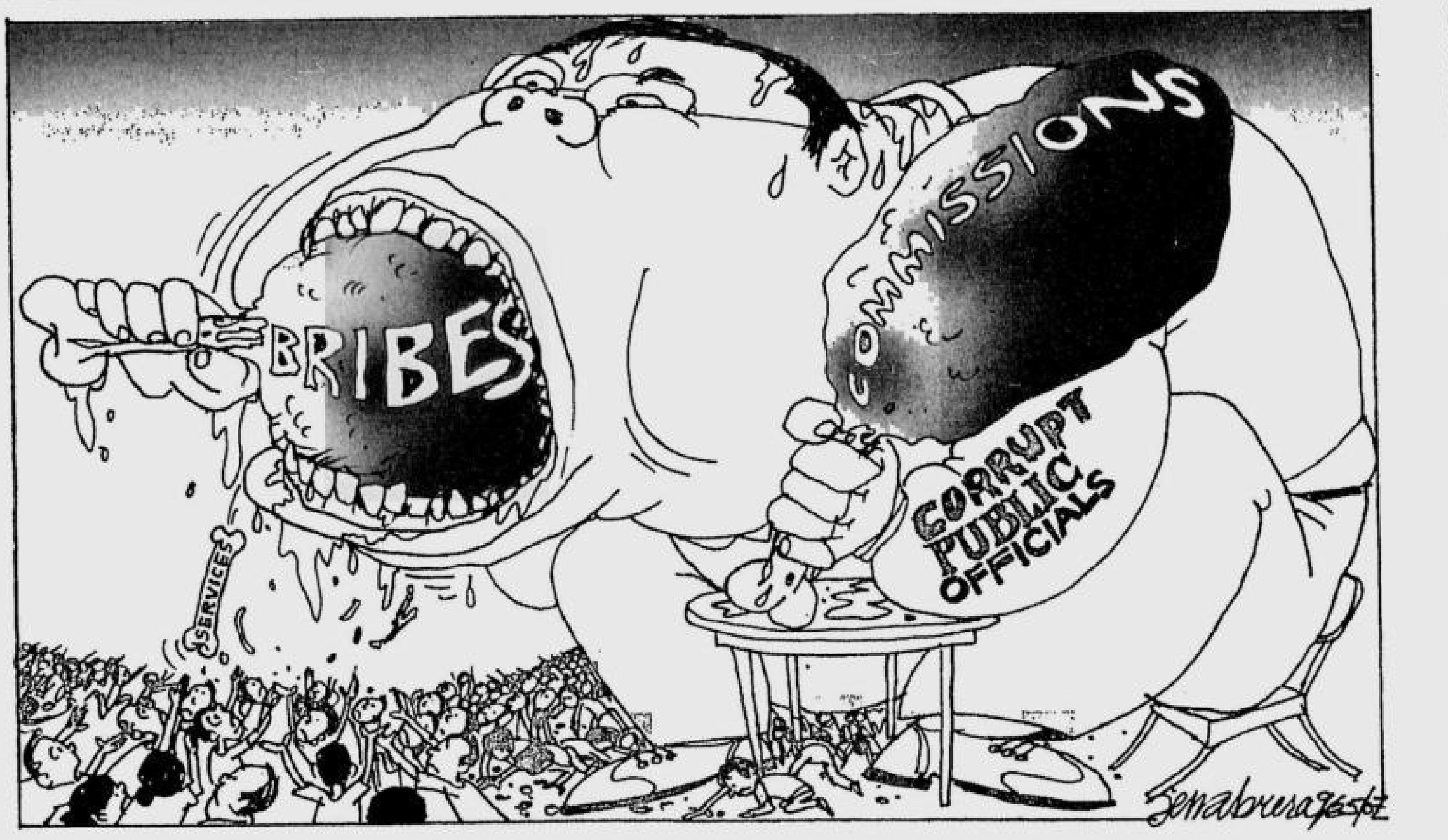

Migrant culture

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

THE EYE CLINIC SECRETARY ON THE LINE apologized, saying: "Sorry, sir. But we can't set an appointment. Your doctor migrated to the US. And her substitute isn't here yet."

Here was a small sign of the medical system's erosion due to the unstanched exodus of caregivers. Starting in the 1960s, departures included nurses, midwives and specialists in pediatrics, internal medicine to obstetrics and oncology, according to Jaime Galvez Tan, Fernando Sanchez and Virginia Balanon. "A health disaster is impending if nothing drastic is done."

That will take some doing. Eight million Filipinos now live and work in over 190 countries, and about 3,000 leave every day. They have midwifed today's "culture of migration ... which permeates Filipino society," Maruja Asis of Scalabrini Migration Center observes.

"Migration has become a way of life," Asis told the East Asian Labor Migration Conference. Eyebrows arch if someone prefers to work here. "The expectation is: you'd like to work overseas, like many Filipinos."

This value now spans generations, despite strained families. A Scalabrini survey of 1,600 children nationwide found 47 percent would head for "faraway places with strange-sounding names," at the first chance. The proportion bolts to 60 percent among migrant workers' children. Example apparently is the best travel brochure.

Multiple generations OFW families are emerging. The New York Times cover story, "A Good Provider Is One Who Leaves," tracked three generations of a Pasay City swimming pool cleaner's family who became OFWs. "No country ever broke free from penury just by (an overseas worker's) remittances," Jason De Parle wrote.

"There is a widening of the income gap between households with remittances" and those without, Dr Chia Siouw Yue of East Asian Development Network notes. "Consumption patterns are likewise distorted."

Crafting of policies that would harness remittances for uses beyond buying a cell phone or karaoke are of growing concern to the Philippines and other migrant-sending countries.

Indonesian illegal workers abroad now exceed 3.5 million, "Development Research News" reports. That's almost double Indonesia's 1999 labor migrants. Most head for Malaysia, Singapore and Middle Eastern countries. And the close to half-a-million migrants from Vietnam "come from middle-income households." They stream toward Taiwan, Malaysia, Korea and Japan. Trainee programs draw migrants to work in Tokyo or Seoul for "allowances."

Over 1.1 million Burmese have entered Thailand. Many are low-skilled, low-wage workers tapped for "3D (dirty, difficult and dangerous) jobs." There are over 2.5 million temporary workers in Malaysia, oustripping those who leave. Almost a million workers are "irregular," coming mainly from Indonesia and the Philippines.

The first wave of OFWs left in the early 1970s. And that exodus surged, without a break, for almost four decades now. It shows little sign of ebbing.

This contrasts with what happened in Malaysia or Taiwan where robust economies and "brain gain" policies enticed professionals to return. "South Korea went from country of (migrant) origin to country of destination. (And) China succeeded in attracting its overseas citizens to return and invest."

Many Filipino migrants don't look back. Our "balik scientists" program never took off. "Economic difficulties are still crucial in people's decisions as to why they migrate abroad," Asis said. Poverty, lack of jobs and the resulting crimp on rising aspirations drive people to the nearest exit.

Mass media show the young that penury is not inevitable, that governments need not be rapacious. Many nations, in fact, have governments that are accountable to citizens. That contrasts with ping-pong shifts in governing here between crooked rulers like the Arroyo regime and a fraudulent opposition like the Estrada brigade.

Our government, then and now, uses migration to vent pressure from unemployment. But many still can't get jobs. Then and now, population grew without a pause. The country didn't make a "demographic transition" from high birth and death rates to low birth and death rates as did other countries.

Then and now, heftier benefits and better working conditions abroad draw the skilled and educated. A trained statistician from UP, my sister found herself in the first batch of migrants to Canada in the early 1970s. So did a medical-technologist brother.

Ad hoc measures of the 1970s hardened by necessity into "institutionalization of migration" policy four decades later. The country today has well-developed institutional structures to serve migrant workers and those leaving for good.

"The landmark 1995 Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act was the first law in Asia that provides protection for OFWs," Asis points out. Nonetheless, there really "is not much interface between migration and development policies up to this point."

East Asian experience shows that only sound economic policies enabled labor-exporting countries to reverse their brain-and-brawn drain. The successful ones skirted the trap of "relying on labor deployment and remittances."

Don't yield to that temptation, the Asian Development Bank cautioned Filipino policymakers titillated by remittance inflows as large as 14 percent of the GDP.

Engaging participation of overseas Filipinos and reinforcing ties with countries where migrants head for are urgent in a globalizing global village, Asis adds. Failure would compel us to seek appointments with doctors abroad.

* * *

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Worlds and words

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

(Conclusion)

THERE ARE A COUPLE OF SPEECHES IN THIS book that make what I'm saying a little clearer. Their truths have certainly helped me go on in those times when I curse heaven for the gout, when I curse the landlord for the rent, and when I wonder what in God's name I'm doing, doing what I do when it doesn't seem to matter.

The first is the speech about Anne Frank and the power—and transcendence—of witnessing. There are several ways you can fight tyranny. You can take up arms against it, as the Polish Resistance did, and push it back with the power of physical force. You can speak out against it, as Mark Twain did, when the United States embarked on its imperial venture, and push it back with the power of moral force. Or you can bear witness to your times, if only by talking about the fury of young love and dreams amid the swirl of war and intolerance around you. And by doing so push back tyranny with the power of the word.

Anne Frank did the last. She did not, of course, survive Nazi-occupied Holland. But her diary, the scribbling of a young, innocent and hugely talented girl, full of life's longings, has become one of history's greatest single acts of defiance against insanity. More than the deaths of six million Jews who became unholy experiments in how fast human beings can be exterminated, the life of this one teenager has become the most powerful testament to the obscenity of the Holocaust and living proof—yes, living—of how long the human spirit can survive.

The patent lesson I draw from this is that truly victory and defeat are not always patent. It is perfectly possible to be defeated at the moment of one's triumph, as I have seen among many friends who have been maimed in spirit at the time of their seeming success. And it is perfectly possible to be victorious in defeat, as I have also seen in many friends who have found in their adversity, including prison, a bountiful source of joy and reward. In the end, history will have different things to say about who won and who lost.

But there's one other, infinitely more subtle, lesson I draw from this. Which is that victory and defeat are not just determined at the end of things, they are determined in the middle of things. Or they are not just found in the nether regions of posterity, they are found in the hard-edged space of the moment.

The power of Anne Frank's diary, whether read or watched in play or movie form, is the wonder and magic of her life and that of her family in that small space of time between their taking to hiding and being found out, in that small space of space between the wall panels of a warehouse in Amsterdam. Suddenly that crack of time expands to encompass eternity; suddenly that crack of space expands to encompass the universe. Suddenly that life quite literally takes a life of its own, transcending the borders of the before and after, transcending the borders of the within and without. Anne Frank's diary, which talks about life in that crack of time and space, is, to use the title of my first book, a flower pushing out of the rubble, as ferocious and magnificent a triumph of life as you can find.

That holds a special meaning for me, coming as I do from an activist background where I learned to believe for a while that things mattered only in the end. Victory was had only after a tyranny was brought down, a new life began only after the new world was built. Well, if Anne Frank's life has anything to say to me now, it is that that isn't true at all. The human worth is not found at the end of a life, it is found in the course of it. Victory and defeat are not found at the end of struggle, they are found in the struggle itself.

I think of that, and somehow it doesn't seem so bad that this country has gone to the dogs in the 20 years that I have been writing "There's the Rub."

The other speech in this book that I draw comfort from has to do with reading and that wonderful book and movie, "Goodbye Mr. Chips." Mr. Chips is a teacher of classical literature in an Oxford school. When he begins teaching, which is before the First World War, the world is still kinder and more hospitable to his lessons, which represent the crowning glories of civilization. But his relevance gets to be challenged as time goes by.

The war comes, his students are drafted, and several die in lonely ditches in strange parts of the world. He himself despairs and wonders what the point of civilization is in a world where the barbarians have broken through the gates. The war ends, but his relevance isn't challenged less, it is challenged more. He now teaches classical literature in a world grown materialistic and utilitarian, one that defines getting ahead as getting going, getting rich, and getting laid.

Still Mr. Chips perseveres, trying as best he can to light the way for future generations with the wisdom of the past. And finally, in the evening of his life, he is forced to take the measure of himself, to ask himself what it all meant. Did his life really amount to anything? Did the things he teach really matter? Was the effort he exerted really worth it? He himself finds the answer to his questions while talking to an old friend. He says thoughtfully: "We did teach them to be more polite to each other, didn't we?"

A commonplace way to say the profoundest thing. A simple way to say the most awesome thing. For maybe that is what civilization is after all. If the generations that had come before had simply learned it, and if the generations that would come after would simply learn it, then maybe there would be no wars, no "salvagings," no rotating full circle through the circles of hell.

That is how I console myself these days, when the bones creak, and the roof leaks, and the world reeks of rain and ruination. I tell myself: "I have tried to teach them to be more polite to each other.

"Haven't I?"

17 steps to get ODA loan approved

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

ONE OF THE MOST SENSIBLE COMMENTARIES I've read about the ZTE controversy was written by the Philippine Star's legal columnist Jose C. Sison. He lamented that the whole controversy is playing out in the court of public opinion, but this is not the best forum because all the sordid details are muddled together with the legitimate issues, instead of being properly sorted out in the interest of the public good. Sison asserted that in the court of public opinion "the people themselves decide which of the varying versions are credible and believable without being guided by any rules on the appreciation of evidence. The more popular version is considered as the truth." Sison said that "the issues arising from the charges and counter-charges of corruption, bribery, sex, and even death threats should … be brought before the court of law." In this court, "the truth will be determined more authoritatively and conclusively by the competent branch of government in accordance with clear and specific rules of evidence … [and its] decision may be unpopular but is presumably correct, binding and conclusive."

* * *

Sison is right. Unfortunately, nowadays charges and counter-charges fly about with little evidence and the juicier tidbits outweigh reason. For instance, allegations about Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos' "sexcapades" have flown thick and fast in the media and the Senate, but no evidence whatsoever was offered to back them up. I think the proper forum to bring up charges of attempted bribery against Abalos is the Office of the Ombudsman, which can, if evidence warrants, recommend the filing of an impeachment complaint in the House. No truth can be ferreted out in the Senate because it's a hangman's platform.

* * *

The problem with the Senate hearings is that the motive of the opposition senators is so obvious: to link President Macapagal-Arroyo to the corruption charges. Look at the interminable debates on whether it was an agreement or a contract that was signed; no amount of reasoning could convince opposition senators that it was not a contract. Then, too, former Neda Director-General Romulo Neri is scheduled to be put on the witness stand tomorrow at the Senate, but critics are already putting words into his mouth, as though fearful that he might veer away from their agenda.

* * *

When the ZTE controversy erupted, I began my own research on the procedure for official development assistance (ODA) loans and I realized that the signing of the Boao agreement was only the initial step in a long process that requires 14 additional steps before the loan contract can be finalized. With the suspension of the ZTE deal by the President, this point does not need to be belabored, but I realize, too, that the government has been ineffective in explaining its side. Part of the reason is that when all the extraneous matters were factored in, e.g., the alleged offer of bribes to Joey de Venecia and Neri by Abalos, the latter's "sexcapades" and the overpricing, few could think straight about the issues anymore.

What the government should have done during the Senate hearing was to present the 17 steps in the loan process before Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza even testified. This would have shown that there is hardly anything as far as that ZTE deal is concerned.

* * *

The Senate hearings eventually showed that the signing of the supply contract between ZTE and the government was only the first step while the signing of the loan agreement with the Chinese government is among the last. In dealing with other governments, however, the loan agreement is the first step. The ZTE supply contract signed in Boao last April was preceded by a "general framework agreement for economic cooperation" between the two governments and several feasibility studies. From Boao, the following necessary steps have yet to be concluded: as explained by Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya at the Senate, his department has to issue a "forward obligation authority" (doubtless because it has to eventually pay the loan), to be followed by Neda's certification that the negotiations have complied with all its conditions. After that, the Department of Finance has to issue a formal loan application with China's Export-Import Bank for the project, followed by our Monetary Board's approval in principle of the loan's proposed terms and conditions. Then the President has to issue a special authority to government officials to negotiate the loan agreement, after which it will be subjected to a review by an interagency committee composed of the Departments of Finance and Justice and Bangko Sentral. This review is routine for all foreign loan documents.

* * *

Only after all these steps are done can there be a signing of the loan agreement, but this is not the end of it. The Monetary Board needs to still give its final approval; the DOJ has to issue a legal opinion on the loan, and the DOF has to submit to Eximbank all documents. Only after all these steps do the loan agreement and supply contract become effective.

Why do I detail this long procedure when the ZTE contract has already been suspended? It's to drive home how ineffective government's communication effort has been. No wonder its critics and detractors have been much better at destroying it. Government's ineffectiveness only heightens the perceptions that a lot of hanky-panky is going on.

Looking at the long process the ZTE loan has to undergo, I began to wonder exactly what the President meant when she told Neri to reject the P200 million bribe and just push that contract. Did she condone the incredible overprice, as her critics are asserting, or could it be, as her supporters say, that she was certain that the various steps in that long process would be able to filter the padded costs?

A quirky neighborhood

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THERE IS "FULL PUPPET NUDITY" IN "AVENUE Q," and the scene is both so startling and leg-slapping funny that the audience hardly pays attention to Aiza Seguerra (as Gary Coleman) singing "You Can Be as Loud as the Hell You Want."

Indeed, there is good reason one cast member of the musical has dubbed the show "Dirty Sesame Street." While it bears similarities to the well-loved educational TV show for children, it transports "Sesame Street" to adult territory, replete with such issues as finding one's purpose in life—or just a meaningful, rewarding job, accepting one's sexuality, finding love and keeping it, racism, and porn on the Internet.

But despite this listing of themes, "Avenue Q" involves no heavy discourse or overly dramatic scenes. Instead, there is music and dancing, laughter and, of course, puppetry. I thought the combination quite apt, for the young adult characters (people in their early to late 20s) do belong to the "Sesame Street" (and in the local context, the "Batibot") generation, reared on Big Bird, Ernie and Bert, Cookie Monster, Miss Piggy and Kermit the Frog, and the optimistic, idealistic world they all lived in.

How do you use this backdrop to tell the story of a college graduate and the friends he meets in a New York neighborhood, with some edginess and adult honesty? The formula is both simple and complicated: you use human actors posing as and interacting with puppets, and you make them sing deceptively "nice" tunes that nonetheless get to the dark heart of growing older and finding that life is far more entangled than one would wish.

* * *

I'D HEARD of "Avenue Q" long before it was staged in Manila, as my daughter Miya had downloaded the entire soundtrack onto her MP3 player months ago. My favorite song was "What Do You Do with a BA in English," not only because it spoke of Miya's unspoken fears, being herself a Comparative Literature major, but also because it gave voice to the anxieties of everyone who works with words. (As Conrad de Quiros expressed in his column yesterday, our words have yet to save somebody's life.)

But Princeton, our hero, is concerned not so much with changing and even conquering the world as with finding a job that will allow him to forego the allowance his parents send him, and pay the rent besides. Along the way, though, he stumbles upon concerns like finding his "purpose" in life, as well as upon the potential love of his life, the nursery school teacher Kate Monster.

Princeton also makes the acquaintance of a motley crew of characters: Brian and Christmas Eve, the inter-racial couple next door; Rod and Nicky, the inter-sexual(?) couple working out sexual and behavioral issues; Gary Coleman, yup, the former child star, as the apartment super; and Trekkie Monster, who stars in the raucous number "The Internet is for Porn."

* * *

IN MANY ways, "Avenue Q" speaks of the coming of age of "Sesame Street's" children, of the sudden, jarring transition from childhood and college and its nice, safe environment, to "real life," and its nasty, contradictory and often-dangerous ways.

Rachel Alejandro, as Kate Monster and Lucy the Slut, is a stand-out in this production. She is completely believable (and lovable) as the retiring, hopelessly romantic Kate, and yet she brings the house down as Lucy the femme fatale, with her come-hither moves and va-va-voom voice.

Joel Trinidad, a theater veteran, is energetic, almost manic, in his varied roles, though I love him best as Trekkie Monster. The other show-biz veterans in the cast—Seguerra, Frenchie Dy (as Christmas Eve)—surprise with the ease with which they have made the transition to stage, though I did have problems with their adopted accents.

In Princeton and Rod, the conflicted investment banker, Felix Rivera has found his breakthrough roles. He is confident and charming, making both his rather bland characters interesting and funny. I say welcome to the newest male lead in the local stage scene!

The biggest kudos, though, go to co-directors Bobby Garcia and Chari Arespacochaga, and Atlantis Productions, for pulling off this witty, funny but highly complicated production. It couldn't have been easy, walking the talented cast through their lines and lyrics, while at the same time teaching them mastery over their moppets. It's a wonder how they were able to keep a tight rein on the proceedings onstage, which could at times be downright confusing.

* * *

"AVENUE Q" was written by the tandem of Robert Lopez and Jeff Marx, with book by Jeff Whitty. Lopez writes a message in the program in which he expresses astonishment and dismay that the musical "is opening in Manila—and that I'm not there to see it."

Lopez explains that he is "3/8ths Filipino" and had been planning to visit the country all his life, "Filipino" being a "secret" identity he had nursed while growing up because adults in his family had little to offer him by way of nurturing the Filipino part of him. While traces of that search for identity can be found in "Avenue Q," writes Lopez, the musical is not "my personal statement of racial confusion … far from it."

So let's just say that "Avenue Q" is about many things: about being young and naïve in New York, about loving and losing and finding again, about identity and relating, about how, as the final song goes, it may "suck to be you" at the moment, but it's only "for now."

Unfortunately, the local production's "for now" has come to an end, as it has just had its last weekend performance. But people involved with the production promise "Avenue Q" will be back for another run in December. In which case, you have plenty of time to prepare for a visit with the quirkiest people in your neighborhood.

Favila and the influence of the moderate

NEWSSTAND

John Nery

HUMOR, LIKE THE ELABORATE COURTESIES our "honorable" lawmakers extend to one other in their "august" chambers, oils the legislative mill. (Whether their rococo language is an inadvertent joke is altogether another matter.) Even the usually strident Miriam Defensor-Santiago, for example, can be relied on to sprinkle her locutions with frabjous comment.

At the Senate joint committee hearings on the National Broadband Network last Thursday, the former judge played the Speaker Jose de Venecia card, eliciting from Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza his recollection that "the son [whistleblower Joey de Venecia] was introduced to me by the father."

How did the Speaker introduce his son, Santiago persisted. "Did he say, 'This is my son, with whom I am well-pleased?'"

Unfortunately, the Gospel reference was entirely lost on an untransfigured Mendoza.

* * *

Humor, Wittgenstein said, is "not a mood but a way of looking at the world." By that standard, we should not say that Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., now on his 14th year in the Senate, was in an atrociously bad mood last Thursday; only that he regards testimony before the Senate as vulnerable to obfuscation and windbaggery.

Going over the notes I took during last Thursday's hearing at the Senate, I count three of Pimentel's sharp-edged jokes. (I'm sure there were others, but I must have missed them while freezing in the session hall.) If, as Wittgenstein again assures us, "a serious...philosophical work could be written consisting entirely of jokes," surely a listing of Pimentel's apercus won't be out of place in a largely political column. (Besides, I can't find them documented in news reports.)

At the hearing, Mendoza cut a Reaganesque figure; I do not mean charismatic and eloquent, but generally, even loopily, disengaged. ("Clueless," the newspapers said the following day.) At one point, Mendoza indicated that Assistant Secretary Lorenzo Formoso (for the nth time) could answer the question at hand more competently. Pimentel egged the designated hitter on: "Mr. Formoso, please come to the rescue."

In his opening statement, Mendoza sought to triangulate what he called the "unbridled and ruthless arena of media reporting" against the Senate. He wasn't merely posing, however. In one exchange with Pimentel, over Mendoza's seeming nonchalance regarding news reports about the NBN project, he was asked whether he still read the papers. Mendoza replied: "I do not know what to believe in media anymore."

Pimentel's rebuttal: "That's right. I think the feeling is mutual."

The most resonant of all his sallies, however, came at the start of the hearing. When Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, the chairman of the Blue Ribbon committee, noted that Secretary Romulo Neri, an alleged bribee, could not attend the second hearing because he had fallen ill, Pimentel belatedly asked the chairman for a clarification. What is he sick of, Mr. Chairman? Intestinal flu, Cayetano replied. Pimentel countered: "Is it intestinal flu… or the lack of intestinal fortitude?"

* * *

I am rather more sanguine about the President's decision to suspend the NBN project than some of my colleagues in media. Yes, the suspension is a halfway measure, really neither here nor there, since the Supreme Court already issued a temporary restraining order. Yes, the suspension is a tactical feint, intended to lull the Senate into considering a premature conclusion to the hearings. Yes, the suspension is a political sop, meant to arrest growing public disgust over the NBN project's sordid details.

All the same, I think the decision can be considered a small victory for the moderates in the Cabinet (to call them a bloc would be to give them a form they do not have). Favila already laid the predicate, as it were, for a suspension last Thursday, when he explained before the Senate that he was willing to sit down with his Chinese government counterpart to discuss alternatives.

"It is worth exploring with my counterpart what these options and variations [are]. I heard about BOO, BOT, cancellation, abrogation and so on and so forth," he said at the hearing, answering the one question addressed to him.

It is a victory, because some in the administration are laying the groundwork for amending the project or scrapping it altogether. Too little, too late? Yes, but we'll take any government's every attempt to respond to public opinion.

Besides, this is the way politics at this level is done. Since the arrangement requires the consent of another government, the most diplomatic course of action (aside from a collective shrugging of the shoulders on account of the legal injunction) is to call for a review. The hardliners (no, not the ones running China) will balk, in part because they know even a cancellation won't stop an independent Senate from continuing with its investigation. But reason prevailed, at least in part, last Saturday. Let's encourage those who made it possible.

* * *

I see the same moderating influence at work in the apparent decision by ex-President Joseph Estrada to accept an absolute pardon, if and when it is offered by his successor in Malacañang.

Having taken a populist position ever since his plunder trial began, Estrada unnecessarily painted himself into a corner. Now the moderates in his camp have found the perfect excuse for him to wiggle out.

I myself do not agree that a convicted plunderer deserves an absolute pardon, but—my point—I do understand how the absolute can be relativized.

* * *

I can't resist. Here's another quote from the surprisingly garrulous Wittgenstein, in anticipation of tomorrow's NBN hearing: "Someone who knows too much finds it hard not to lie."

Email: jnery@inquirer.com.ph

To love or be loved

YOUNG BLOOD

Cherie Ann Lo

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

OUR TEACHER IN PHILOSOPHY ONCE ASKED OUR CLASS whether it is harder to love or to be loved. I did not have a clue on how to answer the question, but I took it to heart. After a few bottles of cheap wine and nights spent until dawn, the question gained contour. But instead of finding an answer, the first thing that came to my mind was another question: What is to love?

I am not entirely sure if what I have arrived at is true, given the limited experiences I have. The only thing I am sure of is that love entails some letting go. It is allowing the other to grow, to pursue his happiness even if that pursuit does not include my own. Love keeps one happy with the thought that the one you let go will be happy, even if it means being without him. As Marcel would put it, "To love anybody is to expect something from him, something which can neither be defined nor foreseen; it is at the same time in some way to make it possible for him to fulfill this expectation." In setting him free, the only expectation I can hold now is that he will be happy. But it is by letting go that I can give him the possibility of being happy.

Even without this other person, loving transforms life into living. Love puts action into life. Life is not life when lived in passivity. Life becomes dynamic when one loves. Love colors the boredom that the routine of life brings. Breathing is no longer just for the purpose of keeping the self alive, it becomes living for the loved one.

Is loving the same as having? It is not. If I claim ownership of someone, he will not be the same person I loved when he was not my possession. Owning something is the same as personalizing it. If an object is personalized, it loses its character. It becomes a reflection of the self. When this happens, then what I love is myself, not the other.

Having someone makes it so much harder to let him go. But if one just loves with respect for the other person, then letting go becomes less difficult. It will never be easy, because there will always be a desire to have that person. Maybe it's human nature to be greedy and to want what one loves. But in the course of having, love disappears.

So loving someone is hard. It seems to be having but it is not. It is a conscious action so that it is not allowed to turn into ownership. It is a giving in to one's very nature, to one's desire to want the best for the loved one. But at the same time, it also entails some control over one's natural impulse to own.

But what is it to be loved? I believe that being loved entails utmost patience. Being loved is an act based on the other person. It is hard in the sense that one cannot control how the other loves. It is like having a stranger hold one's hand. There is fear that this person will lead one to an unknown place. There is apprehension that it will into a grasp. What if he does not let go? The only thing that can loosen this grasp is time.

Patiently waiting for time to knock some sense into the other or the self is probably one of life's hardest tasks. Time stretches into infinity when one is holding on to someone even if it is not reciprocated. There is again this notion that one can have this person but the truth is, one can never have him or anyone else for that matter.

Is it not hard to know that a person does not love you the way you want him to? It is one of life's greatest tensions: the incongruence between how one is being loved and how one loves. To be loved is also hard because it involves acknowledging the possibility that one can never control how the other person loves. It involves an uncertainty which can condense into fear.

So which is harder between loving and being loved? I still haven't come to a conclusion. The intensity by which love impacts a person can make everything both easy and hard. To love someone makes it easier to live, but at the same time, life can be harder because that someone can never be owned. To be loved entails patience which forms character. But it also involves a fear, an uncertainty.

The more important question is, will love ever be easy? I want to believe it is, but life proves otherwise.

Cherie Ann Lo, 20, is a BS Psychology senior at the Ateneo de Manila University.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Courage

"Nobody moved back. Even when they were already wounded, they continued the assault. Their lives were not wasted."

—Ungkaya Pukan Mayor Joel Maturan says of the Marine officers who fell while leading an attack on a major encampment of the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan on August 18.

Futile quest

"No sense anymore in trying to find out (who ordered opposition leader Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr.'s murder). If anything could be found out, it would have been revealed by this time. If we haven't found out by this time, we will never find out."

—Former Supreme Court Chief Justice Andres Narvasa

Still searching

"Before I die, I want to be able to complete in my mind what really happened. I'm not for closing the book. I am for still looking for the answers."

—Lupita Aquino-Kashiwahara, sister of Ninoy Aquino.

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GMA's future written in Estrada verdict

WE SAW IT COMING. AFTER SIX YEARS of litigation, former President Joseph Estrada has been found guilty beyond reasonable doubt by the Sandiganbayan.

We have now sent an erring former president to jail. This guilty verdict should embolden all of us to send more errant ones regardless of the magnitude of their wrongdoing or the height of their positions. No one is above the law. Those who break it should be made to pay for their misdeeds and the damage they cause.

The exposés on large-scale corruption and on questionable deals and bribery that defraud the government of billions of pesos under Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's watch, if found to be true, would make Estrada's offense just like a simple traffic violation.

We are not sure if she would willingly step down in 2010 when her term ends, assuming of course that her paid lackeys in the House of Representatives do not succeed in changing the present system of government, or that she does not abolish Congress and declare martial law and keep herself in power indefinitely, like Marcos did.

When that happens, she will not hold her usurped power for long as the restlessness of the disgruntled junior officers in the military will prove difficult to contain, and as her equally unpopular friend George W. Bush will have long been out of office by then and replaced by a less friendly Democrat.

And when she is finally down, she will most likely be made to face all the charges now being leveled against her.

—RAMON MAYUGA,
GeRMayuga@aol.com

SURFACE JONAS BURGOS! -KMU-
SURFACE JONAS B JUNK TERRO KMU
FREE Jonas Burgos MOVEMENT

THE FACE OF THE INVISIBLE: On the 100th day of the disappearance of activist Jonas Burgos, members of the Free Jonas Movement march from Sto. Domingo Church in Quezon City toward Welcome Rotonda. FILE PHOTO

MSU needs Muslim as president

THE VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE MUSlim community in the country and several Christian and Lumad leaders and organizations hail the news that very soon Dr. Macapado A. Muslim will take over as president of Mindanao State University. He is definitely the best man for the job!

This is long overdue; in 2005, the Malacañang-authorized search committee chaired by former ChED Commissioner Cristina Padolina unanimously chose Dr. Muslim (No.1 out of 21 screened applicants) to succeed Dr. Camar A. Umpa. Unfortunately, that succession did not come to pass. Instead, then newly retired police general Ricardo F. de Leon was appointed as a transition president (acting president) to restore peace and order, reportedly for a short duration of only six months to a maximum of one year.

To some extent De Leon has succeeded in doing that. In the meantime, however, the academic standards of MSU have continued to deteriorate severely. A professional academician and proven educational administrator must now take over. With extensive experience in university governance, capped by 11 years' experience as Chancellor of the now rapidly developing MSU Campus in General Santos City and concurrent member of the MSU Board of Regents, Dr. Muslim can surely restore the lost academic excellence of MSU, especially on its main campus in Marawi City. An alumnus of MSU Marawi Campus, Dr. Muslim is a native son of Marawi City, which is certainly a significant strength for the MSU presidency especially in ensuring stability on campus.

Dr. Muslim obtained his PhD and MA degrees in political science from the University of Hawaii as an East-West Center scholar, and his Masters in Public Administration from the University of the Philippines. Recognizing his impressive performance as chancellor of MSU-General Santos for two terms (December 1995 to March 27, 2007), Dr. Muslim was conferred the Outstanding Alumni Award by the University of the Philippines National College of Public Administration and Governance and NCPAG Alumni Association on June 16, 2007.

In their separate letter-appeals, several leaders and groups within and outside of the 10-campus MSU System urge President Macapagal-Arroyo to cause the immediate release of the appointment of Dr. Muslim as the next regular president of MSU, which she had reportedly signed two weeks ago. MSU deserves nothing less. The immediate release of Dr. Muslim's appointment is politically significant given the current security crisis in Mindanao.

—DR. JOSE V. ABUEVA,
president,
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1803 Marikina City

Is military report on license plate being 'doctored'

I CAN SMELL SOMETHING FISHY BEhind the sudden decision of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to fight all the way to the Supreme Court (instead of at the Court of Appeals only, as it previously said) attempts of the family of Jonas Burgos to get a copy of the investigation report on the "theft" of the license plate (of an impounded jeep) that ended up on the vehicle used in his kidnapping. (INQUIRER, 9/17/07)

The name of the game is "buying time." That is, the AFP must create an impression that it, indeed, has nothing to hide in the report, with AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon himself reportedly agreeing to the release of the report if the Court of Appeals would so order; then backtracking on that commitment, with the government lawyers "opting" to exhaust all legal avenues to prevent the release of the report, by initially filing a motion for reconsideration with the Court of Appeals, and then eventually appealing to the Supreme Court. This will surely take considerable time; meanwhile, so many untoward events (read: manipulations) will suddenly occur. For example, duly signed international contracts are lost; so "doctored" reports—one may already be in process—cannot be far behind.

In fairness to all concerned, and to erase the lingering doubts about the AFP's sincerity regarding this issue, the immediate submission of the controversial investigation report should be ordered by the court for its safekeeping until the Supreme Court rules to have it released to the Burgos family or returned to the AFP.

—RUDY L. CORONEL,
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De Quiros urged: Take on GMA

IF CONRADO DE QUIROS IS REALLY that animated to see Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo suffer the same fate as Joseph Estrada's (INQUIRER, 9/18/07), why doesn't he lead the charge to file cases against her? The way he pulverizes GMA indicates he has the goods on her. Another conviction can only help the country's political picture.

—VICTOR SUMAGAYSAY,
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Nude photos and INQUIRER responsibility

I AM DISAPPOINTED AND DISGUSTED THAT a respectable newspaper should feature a picture of naked men, exposed from top to bottom. (INQUIRER, 9/17/07). It may be interesting to some, including the INQUIRER, but please remember that even young girls read the INQUIRER, and therefore, the photo could incite young minds to undue and irresponsible prurience, and provide fodder for salacious talk. The INQUIRER cannot evade responsibility for this.

Is this the INQUIRER's brand of so-called journalistic freedom, something that many in the media industry invoke irresponsibly? Is this the INQUIRER's way of selling the newspaper?

If the answer to both is yes, I implore the INQUIRER to reassess its responsibility to society. The INQUIRER shapes minds and consciences. This grave responsibility cannot and should not be abused under the guise of freedom. Otherwise, the INQUIRER would be no different from the cheap tabloids parading human flesh and arousing plain lust.

What a shame that would be!

—ROMEO RAYMOND C. SANTOS, 21-A Alley 19,
Road 9, Project 6, Quezon City

We've reminded the editor of The World section about the subsection on "Nudity" of the section on "Photographs" of the Inquirer Manual of Editorial Policies. The subsection says in part that if a photo showing the private parts of a man (men) or woman (women) has to be used, the staff artist should black out the private parts. —Ed.

Becoming a population of idiots

COMMENTARY

Isabel Escoda

I HEARD A RADIO BROADCAST REcently, during a visit to San Francisco, by someone named Michael Sullivan who spoke of feeling "incredibly sad" at the sight of something in Manila. His radio essay was aired over NPR (National Public Radio, the US equivalent of the BBC in London to which I tune in regularly in Hong Kong). It was a thoughtful, incisive piece without a hint of disparagement or condescension; he seemed genuinely sorry about something which, to him, reflected an unfortunate aspect of the situation in the Philippines.

The sadness felt by Sullivan (whom I Googled and learned is NPR's South & Central Asian correspondent) was apparently caused by the sight of long queues in front of a building in Manila known as the POEA, which he spelled out. The other countries in Asia which he covers are famous, as everyone knows, for exports such as cars and TVs (Japan), clothes and toys (China), computers and flowers (Taiwan), gems and textiles (Thailand), and furniture and handicrafts (Indonesia).

Sullivan's depression apparently stemmed from the fact that the Philippines' main export is its citizens—10 percent of the population, he stated, are migrant workers abroad. Describing the lines of people outside the POEA building as "looking excited but nervous," he noted that "most looked weary and resigned."

He interviewed an Emilio Antonio who told him he was glad to be working overseas because "We are like beggars, we cannot choose." Sullivan then spoke to a woman who said she was looking forward to earning $400 a month as a housemaid, even as she was leaving her husband and children behind. Their stories reflected the old cliched dream of going abroad to better one's lot, and the sadness which many of the migrant workers feel at leaving home.

On my flight to the United States, I had read "The Inheritance of Loss" by the fine young Indian writer Kiran Desai, who won the prestigious British Booker Prize this year. Recounting the lives of Third World nationals who immigrate to find work in the West, she tells a story of a young Nepali man struggling with demeaning dead-end jobs in New York City. And she also describes an Indian professional who has done well in the Midwest. When the professional's father arrives from India to visit his son, Desai describes the son's feelings thus:

"He knew what his father thought: that immigration, so often presented as a heroic act, could just as easily be the opposite; that it was cowardice that led many to America; fear marked the journey, not bravery; a cockroachy desire to scuttle to where you never saw poverty … never had to suffer a tug to your conscience; where you never heard the demands of servants, beggars, bankrupt relatives, and where your generosity would never be openly claimed; where by merely looking after your own wife-child-dog-yard you could feel virtuous. Experience the relief of being an unknown transplant to the locals and hide the perspective granted by the journey. Ohio was the first place he loved, for there he had at last been able to acquire poise … "

This made me think of transplanted Pinoys and the pride we feel for those of our "kababayan" who do well abroad, even as we often forget the multitudes who struggle abroad and end up at the bottom of the pile.

Desai's earlier book "Hullabaloo in a Guava Orchard" (1998) is about a young man named Sampath who starts out as his family's black sheep who then morphs into a sage when he decides to alter his life by establishing residence atop a guava tree. Befuddled people who first think he's mad soon decide he's a mystic; they come from far and near to peer up at the branches to ask him questions about life, which he answers in convoluted riddles.

In this book, Desai has a passage in which she mentions a member of the "Indian Atheist Society" observing Sampath perched on top of the guava trip while crowds gather around him, hanging on to his enigmatic answers and words of weird advice. This prompts the atheist to think that "People like Sampath … obstructed the progress of this nation [India] … they smothered anybody who tried to make a stand against the vast uneducated hordes, swelling and growing toward the biggest population of idiots in the world, even as miniscule little countries like Taiwan and the Philippines were forging ahead … "

This may be a curious statement to make, even though Taiwan and the Philippines are indeed "miniscule" in population compared to India, the world's largest democracy. Though Taiwan has in many ways been ahead of India technologically and commercially, considering the Philippines as "forging ahead" poses the question as to which field—in politics perhaps? With corruption in India often exposed and punished, this makes Desai's comparison interesting.

So even as Filipinos today demand the ouster of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, she apparently still doesn't rank with TI's most corrupt leaders. The irony is that, even though we're notorious for having short memories and forgiving natures, we have some perverse citizens who clamor for Joseph Estrada's return as well as those who revere Ferdinand Marcos. In fact, the recent report about new school textbooks extolling Marcos as a great leader shows how history is being whitewashed and rewritten. Such a travesty of the truth is, no doubt, due to the machinations of those surviving Marcos relatives in various positions of power—not the least of them the bizarre Imelda, who persists in making the Philippines (to borrow the words of Desai's atheist) "look like growing toward the biggest population of idiots in the world."

Isabel T. Escoda has written about Filipinos in Hong Kong in her books "Letters from Hong Kong," "Hong Kong Postscript" and "Pinoy Abroad."

Fatuous questions and senators

I WAS LISTENING TO THE Senate hearings over the radio and I could not help feeling so frustrated and sick to my stomach. Regardless of the motives of the senators who pressed for the investigations, I wanted to know what the deals were all about.

Administration senators were on panic mode, trifling with the most inane questions.

Sen. Joker Arroyo hinted that the Senate was just being used in the NBN inquiry as a collection agency for "commissioners." He was clearly implying that although he believed there was plenty of dirty money lining the pockets of people involved in contracts with the government, it was pointless to delve into the irregularities. It was just a "simple matter" among thieves squabbling over the loot. What the heck has happened to that guy?

Sen. Miriam Santiago was more angry and obsessed with the sex life of a witness rather than with the substance of his testimony about President Macapagal-Arroyo's complicity in the "Hello Garci" election fraud. Santiago even wanted his missus and his mistresses subpoenaed. When will we ever have enough of that woman's rantings and ravings? Tell me again, when did she say she was going to jump off the plane, please?

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile was more dissembling with legal technicalities and gobbledygook that detracted from the substance of the NBN controversy. His mission was obviously to obfuscate.

Sen. Francisco Pangilinan was his disingenuous self as usual. After so many questions to the witness who spilled the beans on First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo in relation to the NBN stink, he wrapped it up with an assurance from the witness that the latter had no personal knowledge of the President's complicity in the skullduggery. Fine, let's grant the wife does not always know what the husband is doing. As it panned out later, the President was reported to have gone to China to personally witness the signing of the NBN contract. Back home, she would declare: "We must honor government contracts!"

Hello, again?

—STEVE Y. VESPERA,
styves888@yahoo.com

Powerful, indecent

I FOUND THE SEPT. 19 EDItorial, "Indecent haste," a little baffling. While the body seemed logical, the title confused me. Was it meant to imply that if politicians waited a while before offering a pardon to Estrada, a pardon wouldn't look so indecent?

My feeling is politicians wield their power indecently. Not just politicians, but most people in power. I suppose they have the misguided notion that when the law gives them discretionary power, they assume they can do whatever they want.

I believe they understand the word wrongly. "Discretion" entails wisdom. When a person in power is given discretionary power, it only means that the law is insufficient and the person in power has to use his God-given wisdom, his intelligence as a well-informed individual to make the right decision.

There is no freedom here. There is only foresight or lack thereof. Two choices: right or wrong.

—BRIAN BROTARLO,
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'Hello, Garci' will keep on haunting Arroyo

"DOBLE IS ALREADY FINished as a witness. He needs somebody else to back up his story." This is a statement coming from Sen. Richard Gordon. (INQUIRER, 9/17/07)

What is the truth, Senator Gordon, if I may ask? If Vidal Doble Jr. is not a credible witness, what about the taped conversation between Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and then-Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano? Is it a product of the technical expertise of the agents of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines or just an electronic anomaly plucked out of thin air by the agents to embarrass Ms Arroyo?

This issue will not die even if Senator Gordon and all of Ms Arroyo's apologists succeed in stonewalling the Senate inquiry. It will haunt Ms Arroyo for the rest of her political life.

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P40M being spent for Expo Pilipino

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CLARK FREEPORT—THE MAMMOTH YET IDLE government asset that is the P3-billion Expo Pilipino here has finally gotten a new lease on life.

Breathing a fresh start to the 60-hectare park is the government itself through the Nayong Pilipino Foundation, said Crispin Cadiang, NPF's coordinator for this P40-million undertaking.

The move, led by NPF executive director Charito Planas, is seen in business circles as daring because no private group has actually tried to turn it around and get over its tarnished past.

Ramos legacy

Built by the administration of former President Fidel Ramos to celebrate the centennial of Philippine Independence in 1998, the Expo Pilipino was mothballed in 1999, on orders of former President Joseph Estrada, after the Senate's blue ribbon committee found proof of graft in the project.

In the business sense, however, the park still teems with facilities and features that can bring in income to the government's coffers.

This was what convinced Planas to try the proposition of Rene Diaz, former presidential adviser for Northern Luzon, said Cadiang.

Than leave it to deteriorate or entirely go to waste, the NPF did its bit by using what remains of Expo Pilipino's pre-colonial and colonial plazas, repairing or improving those or adding new attractions to the place, Cadiang said.

In doing so, it shared with the Clark Development Corp. the task of demonstrating that the Expo Pilipino is still feasible as a public or private enterprise.

Extension

"Nayong Pilipino sa Clark Expo" is how this improved part of the park is called.

"The concept is to make this an extension of the Nayong Pilipino in Pasay City," said Cadiang, a musical composer and former Catholic priest.

At least 53 personnel, including a team of construction workers, are involved in this revival effort. Musician and historian Felipe de Leon has helped in the research and in the remaking of the area as a "buhay na yaman" or living heritage.

The replicas of the Ifugao Village, Kalinga Village and Barasoain Church, and the Convento Theater have been repaired and can now be used.

The replicas of the houses of national hero Dr. Jose Rizal, Apolinario Mabini and former President Emilio Aguinaldo have been restored.

Existing structures

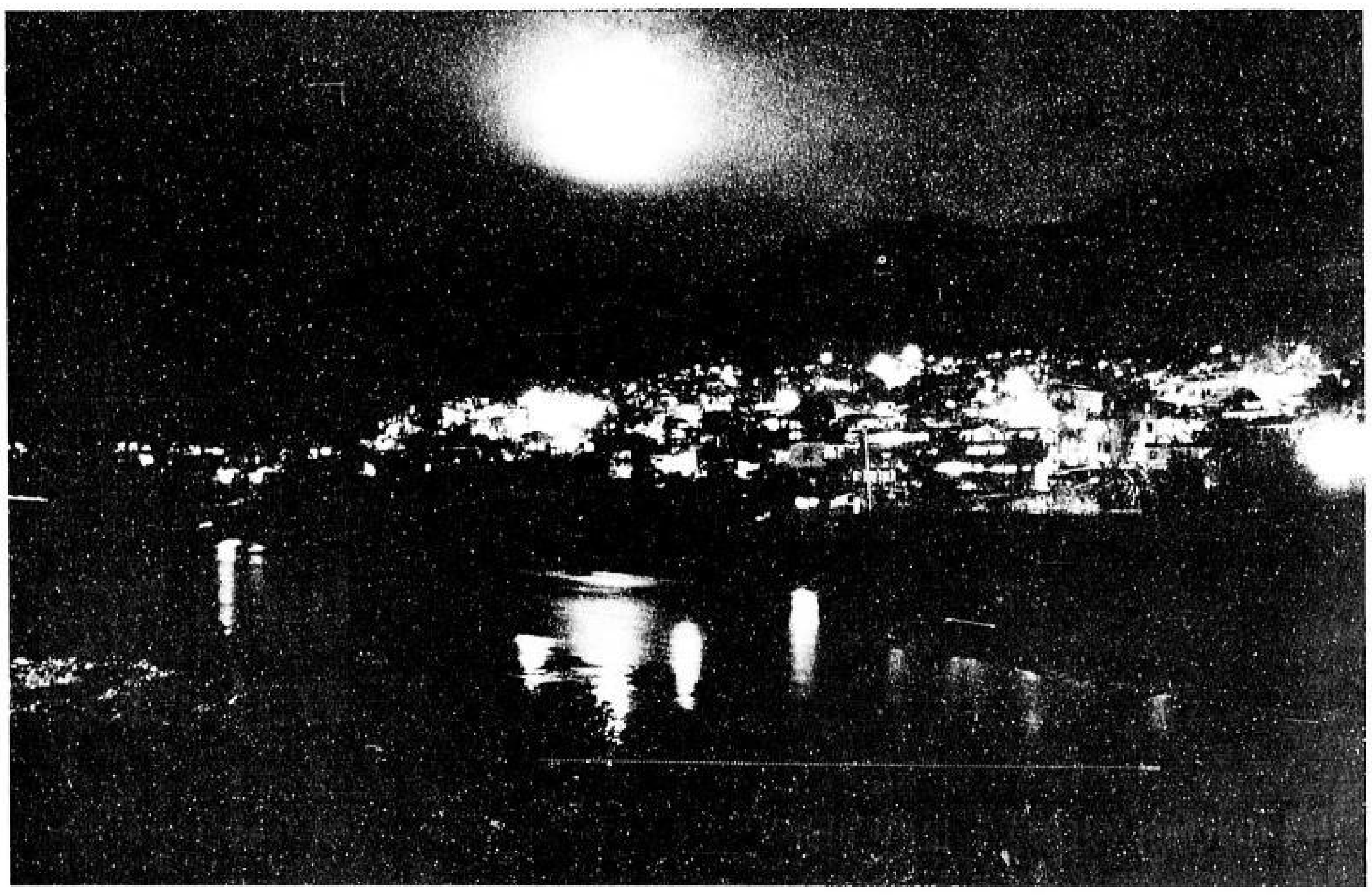
Still undergoing repairs are the Plaza, Arcadia, the museum of ecclesiastical and folk arts, and the outdoor theater.

The additional features are the Labuad Kapampangan, a mini-park of Pampanga culture, and the Karinan, a restaurant made of bamboo and nipa that sits right next to a vegetable garden and chicken farm.

Another feature is the "Dambana ng Paghilom (Shrine of Healing)," which is set to get its own garden of herbal plants.

Three of seven lodging cottages have been finished and are available for overnight rest or retreats.

The executive lounge, all made of hardwood and native materials, has hosted small conferences and meetings.



BONTOC NIGHT
The moon shines over Bontoc, Mountain Province, competing with the lights from houses and buildings that have sprouted in the area.
ELMER KRISTIAN DAUIGOY/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Bolinao beach clean again after 5 years

BOLINAO, PANGASINAN—MORE THAN five years after a massive fish kill hit this town and rendered the Guiguiwanen beach unfit for swimming, the water in the seaside village is clear again, residents and officials here said.

Margaret Celeste, chair of the Bolinao Marine Ecological Fund Foundation, which led a clean up of coastal areas and rivers here on Friday, said the good condition of the Guiguiwanen beach was a "pleasant surprise" to those who joined the activity.

"We are happy that the water of Guiguiwanen beach is clear again. This is a public beach where people can once again enjoy swimming," Celeste said.

Due to aquaculture activities at the Kakiputan Channel, which separates this town from Anda, water at the Guiguiwanen beach turned murky and caused skin rashes among beach goers in the past years.

The governments of Bolinao and Anda have since restricted the operation of fish cages and pens in the channel following fish kills, the most recent of which hit Anda this year.

Celeste said the garbage collected by residents in this year's coastal cleanup were mostly biodegradable, like dried sea grasses and seaweeds, coconut husks and leaves.

She said less non-biodegradable garbage were collected this year compared to the past years, but volunteers still gathered 15 sacks of bottles and plastic bags and wrappers from the 3-km stretch of the beach.

"Sadly, most of the plastic bags were containers of [fish] feed, perhaps thrown into the sea by fish cage caretakers and which found their way to the beach," Celeste said.

In Anda town, local officials said structures impeding water flow at the Kakiputan Channel would be demolished to prevent fish kills and pollution in the channel.

Mayor Nestor Pulido said there are about 20 fish pens and 22 fish cages in the channel hit by a massive fish kill in June.

"The Kakiputan Channel is the narrowest turn from Tambac Bay [in Bani town] to Bolinao and based on studies, water should flow freely in the channel so that it can flush out pollutants to the sea," Pulido said.

He said he had ordered the gradual demolition of fish structures in the area and had adopted a policy that fish pens will no longer be allowed in this town.

"We would prefer fish cages, because these allow water to flow," Pulido said.

"We are now identifying exits and entry points of water that goes around the island so we can also free them from fishing structures that block water flow," he added.

He said he implemented a gradual demolition of the fish structures after *bangus* (milkfish) producers asked him to allow them to stay for a while to recoup their losses from the June fish kill.

At least P100 million worth of *bangus* went belly up during the recent fish kill.

"Of course, we perfectly understand that. So, we have been demolishing fish pens in a systematic manner," Pulido said. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes and Gabriel Cardinoza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Land feud seen cause of clash with MILF men

COTABATO CITY—A land dispute involving members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) in Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Maguindanao was the culprit behind clashes with Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) guerrillas on Sunday, a rebel official said yesterday.

Von Al Haq, chair of the MILF ceasefire team, said on Sunday militiamen, led by a certain Tamano, attacked the group of former MNLF commander Datu Mando Tambulangan in Barangay Kitango, who were then harvesting their crops.

The two factions have been contesting ownership of a tract of land in the town, according to Eid Kabalu, MILF civil-military chief.

He said there was an undetermined number of casualties in both sides.

Kabalu said at the initial clash, MILF forces remained calm.

But he said the militiamen later targeted the MILF camp in Kitango, killing one rebel.

With the involvement of the MILF, Kabalu said the gunfight raged for several hours.

"We did not start the fighting. it was the CVOs. Their bullets landed in our camp in Kitango that's why we were dragged into the fighting. We only defended our camp," Al Haq said.

Lt. Col. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the military's 6th Infantry Division, told the INQUIRER that members of the Malaysian-led International Monitoring Team (IMT) rushed to Kitango around 1 p.m. to pacify the militiamen and the MILF but the rebels instead fired at them.

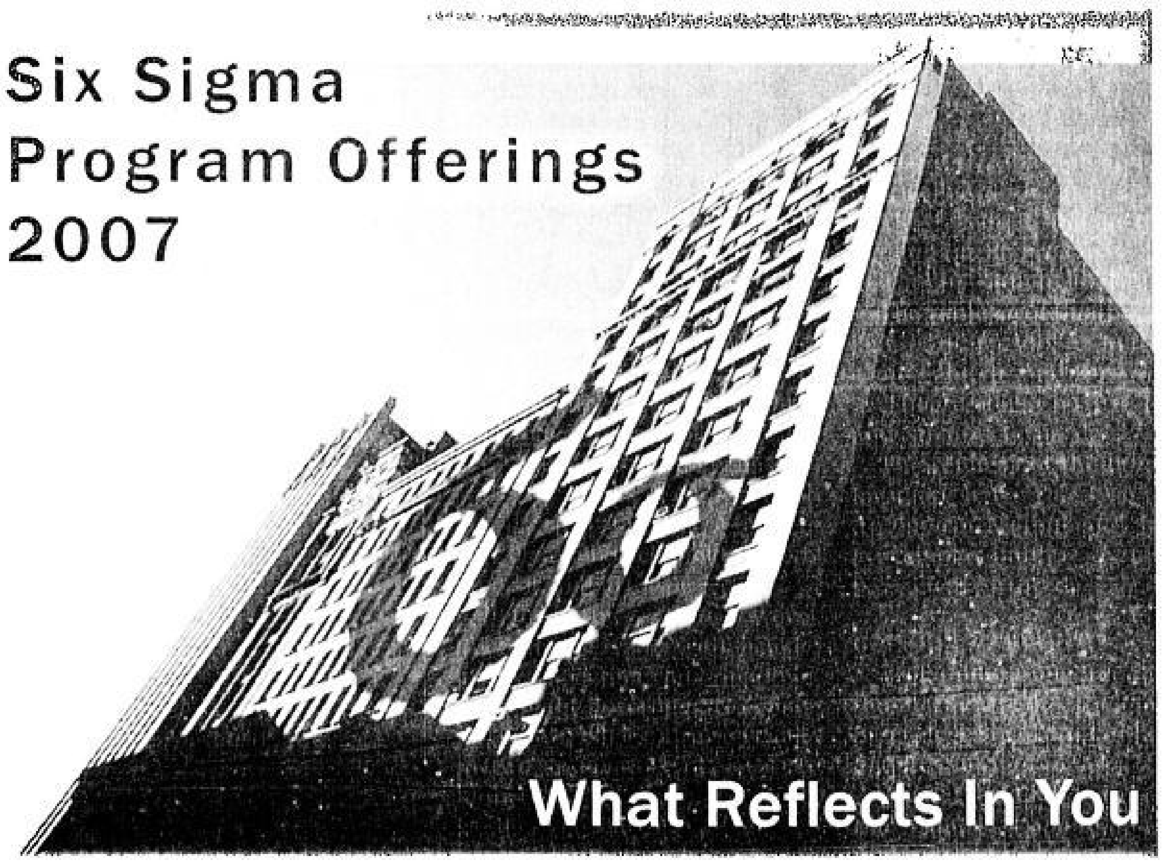
"Luckily none of them was hurt in the attack," he said.

Ando said the ambush on the IMT team clearly showed that the MILF lost control of its men.

The IMT is a body created by the Organization of the Islamic Conference to oversee the ceasefire agreement between the government and the MILF.

Al Haq denied MILF forces staged the ambush on the IMT contingent, saying the bullets had come from the militiamen. *Charlie Señase and Jeffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*

SOLDIERS take time out for a meal of canned sardines as they await deployment in Camp General Atienza in Libis, Quezon City.
JOAN BONDOC



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Rights of drug suspects violated, court says

By Donna Demetillo
and Elmer Kristian Dauigoy
Inquirer Northern Luzon

(Last of two parts)

THIS PRISTINE view of the rice terraces of Ifugao mask the growing urban malaise, including drug use and sale, brought about by uncontrolled population there.

EV ESPIRITU/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

BAGUIO CITY—PANGASINAN Gov. Amado Espino Jr. said that with the implementation of Republic Act No. 9165 (Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002), the Philippines now had the best law on illegal drugs in Southeast Asia.

However, Espino, a former representative and one of the authors of RA 9165, said there was much to be desired. "The only problem is on its implementation," he said.

Judge Antonio Reyes, who handles the Special Anti-Drugs Court in this city, said the "haste" by which RA 9165 had been crafted "opened the floodgates to the violation of the rights of the accused."

Citing cases decided by the Regional Trial Court's Branch 61, Reyes said Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) agents and policemen, in many instances, had violated the rights of the accused by enforcing warrantless arrests and searches, and by harming suspects ("police brutality").

Evidence planted

The first case that Reyes handled in 2002 under RA 9165 was dismissed after the police planted evidence on the accused, Billy Eustaquio and Tracy Lac-men.

"There can be no other reasons for the patent inconsistencies of the police officers in the details of these cases than the fact that the buy-bust operation was fictitious," Reyes said in his decision. "The police involved in these cases simply arrested and made up the charges against the two accused who have been unduly languishing in jail."

SPECIAL REPORT

In the case of Samsodin Dianalan, who was jailed in 2005 and acquitted in May this year, Reyes said "there [was] hardly evidence to show the details pertaining to the impending drug deal and if at all, the testimony of … the poseur-buyer (a PDEA agent) was a display of incoherence and inconsistency."

Reyes, in another decision acquitting Leonard Challoy of charges of selling a half brick of marijuana (340 grams), said the police "failed to observe standard operating procedure for a buy-bust operation."

Challoy was arrested and jailed in 2005 and spent two years in prison before his acquittal.

In another case, Reyes acquitted Rex Cayang-o of charges of selling 23.75 grams of dried marijuana when the PDEA's civilian agent, who did not have police training, bungled an operation.

Records from the RTC Branch 61 showed that the most common reasons behind the acquittal and dismissal of cases in his court are: Dubious buy-bust operations, lack of buy-bust money in operations, contradicting testimonies of arresting officers, police failure to establish chain of custody of evidence, and warrantless arrests and searches.

Reyes described RA 9165 as "harsh" because of the offenses it classified as unbailable and the stiff penalties it imposed. He said Section 5 of RA 9165, which metes life imprisonment to an offender for the sale of any quantity and purity of drugs, is "unforgiving."

Harsh

"If they caught someone with a sachet of *vetsin* (monosodium glutamate) mixed with only traces of shabu, the suspect is booked," he said.

Reyes is also displeased that while RA 9165 had set graded penalties in drug possession cases, it did not apply the same requirement on the sale of illegal drugs.

"I pity them (accused) because they are detained straight away," he said.

Reyes said that under the old law, RA 6425, many of the accused were able to post bail or pleaded guilty to incur lighter penalties such as probation.

"There is less room for police misconduct if penalties are less harsh," he said.

Prosecutor's view

Baguio Prosecutor Conrado Catral Jr. disagrees. "I don't think [RA 9165 is harsh]. Otherwise, it should have been rendered unconstitutional by the Supreme Court," he said.

"I don't think that making the penalty stiff makes [the law] harsh. The drug menace is there but it is only a matter of prosecuting and catching the right person and [conducting arrests in] a regular manner to avoid insinuations of illegal arrest or planting of evidence."

Asked if stiffer penalties made RA 9165 more effective, Catral said: "No. Otherwise, drug cases would have been eradicated."

"In my opinion, [stiffer penalties] are not deterrent [to crime]. Even during the time when we had death penalty, heinous crimes still existed," he said.

Reyes, however, considers RA 6425 a "better law."

"It is not the severity of punishment that is a deterrent to crime. It's the certainty of punishment. RA 6425 was a better law because it had degrees [to determine corresponding penalties]," he said.

Understanding RA 9165

Supt. Oliver Enmodias, PDEA director of the Cordillera, said that since the PDEA was "relatively young" (it was created in 2002 when RA 9165 was passed), its agents had yet to have a firm understanding or knowledge of the new antidrugs law.

It is for this reason, he said, that monthly refresher training sessions on RA 9165 were given to PDEA agents. Training sessions on proper arrests and investigative skills are also conducted regularly.

Enmodias said the PDEA in the Cordillera had hired a legal officer and four case monitoring personnel to review dismissed or acquitted cases and recommend if these could be revived.

He said their legal officer also coordinated with the prosecution and helped PDEA agents in court proceedings and hearings.

But Reyes said: "[The PDEA] should be perfect [in handling cases] because they are dealing with human lives [here]."

> 'The biggest problem that drug enforcement is facing now is the lure of money …'

"If a doctor makes a mistake and kills a patient, he cannot just make an excuse that he's still perfecting his skills. They should not fault the court [for the acquittals]. It's a good thing that the court is here to correct their imperfections," he said.

Catral said he did not fail in reminding the PDEA about its shortcomings.

"I already told them the problem because they were complaining about the rush [in issuing] decisions [acquitting] the suspects. They kept on bungling their cases," he said.

While he said the police and the PDEA may have identified the suspects as known drug users or pushers, "sad to say … [there was] irregularity in the procedures in effecting the arrest of a respondent."

Enmodias said the slow pace of court proceedings would also affect the clarity and consistency of testimony that a PDEA agent might give in court.

Bungling cases

He said most agents handled several cases at a time and they might confuse one set of facts for another because of their "reliance on memory."

"*Nalilito sila sa dami ng* cases (They are confused because of the volume of cases)," he said.

To solve this, Enmodias has asked his agents to use an investigative notebook to record details of events and operations so they can refer to this during hearings.

Some of the law's provisions are also difficult to comply with.

Enmodias cited a provision requiring the presence of representatives of the media and the Department of Justice before the marking, inventorying, and photographing of confiscated drugs. This is especially difficult to comply with if their operations are conducted late at night, he said.

Complying with law

In remote areas of the Cordillera, there are no crime laboratories and confiscated drugs have to be taken to the city for testing. This situation would make complying with the law's 72-hour requirement for the filing of charges difficult.

Enmodias said cases of violence only occurred in instances where offenders resist arrest, and agents were compelled to use force to subdue the suspect.

"On our own, we investigate our people and provide constant guidance," he said.

Erring agents are reprimanded and warned for the first offense, but that administrative cases may also be filed depending on the gravity of the offense and the number of offenses.

Enmodias said that bungling of evidence was also a ground for the filing of administrative cases against agents. A provision in RA 9165 penalizes law enforcers who either fail to account confiscated drugs, plant evidence or bungle cases.

But Reyes said no complaint had been filed against erring PDEA agents or policemen. "The problem is that nobody is bold enough to fight back," he said.

"They don't catch big fishes. Most of the people they arrest are poor or illiterate. How can these people file charges when they don't have enough money or don't know any better?" he said.

Oversight committee

With the problems now hounding the government's campaign against illegal drugs, Espino said it was now up to the congressional oversight committee on dangerous drugs whether to amend the law or not.

The committee, which is headed by the chairpersons of the Senate committee on public order and illegal drugs and the House committee on dangerous drugs, is composed of seven senators and seven representatives.

"The role of this oversight committee is really to oversee the implementation of the law and look into its defects so that these can be corrected within 10 years," Espino said.

For instance, the law provides that after five years, all agents of the PDEA shall have already graduated from the PDEA Academy, which is supposed to be responsible for the recruitment and training of all agents and personnel.

"It has been five years [since the law was implemented]. But I don't know what happened to that now. My intention then [in having that provision included] was to have professional and specially trained agents in the PDEA," Espino said.

The PDEA, he said, was organized by taking in personnel from anti-illegal drugs units of the Philippine National Police, National Bureau of Investigation and Bureau of Customs.

"I was the one who disagreed that these people from PNP, NBI and BoC would continuously serve. We said that every year, their number should be reduced and within five years, *sana, ubos na lahat iyon* (they should all have been replaced). Their appointments were very temporary," Espino said.

Technicalities

He said most illegal drugs cases had ended up being dismissed or with the accused being acquitted because of technicalities that a law enforcer may have failed to observe.

"For example, the apprehending officer did not appear [during the hearing]. Or the manner the apprehending officers submitted the affidavit. Or illegal searches—there are really many," Espino said. "So, the ones handling these cases should be professionals who are sincere to their careers."

The biggest problem that drug enforcement is facing now is the "lure of money."

"There's big money there. This is why I kept on saying that all those involved in the anti-illegal drugs campaign must be devoted to this kind of work. Otherwise, *wala talagang mangyayari diyan* (nothing will happen there)," he said. ***With a report from Gabriel Cardiñoza, Inquirer Northern Luzon***

Gloria execs continue word war on SCTEx

THE IMPOSING tower of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA) juts out in the Clark civil aviation complex. The DMIA is being poised as the country's future premier international airport.

TONETTE OREJAS/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON

CLARK FREEPORT—SECRETARY Edgardo Pamintuan said Bases Conversion Development Authority president Narciso Abaya should give advice than merely follow the order of President Macapagal-Arroyo on where to build the interchanges of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway.

"I salute [Abaya] for being a former chief of staff [of the Armed Forces of the Philippines] but with decision-making, I'm sorry," Pamintuan, chair of the Subic-Clark Alliance for Development Council, said on Thursday.

"He's still like a military general who strictly follows orders from the commander-in-chief," he said.

He was referring to the compliance of Abaya to the directive of Ms Arroyo to build an interchange at the Porac-Angeles City boundary.

Obey first

Abaya has understood that the site is in Porac's Barangay Manuali that provides access to the Pampanga capital of San Fernando as well as southern and eastern towns.

The BCDA chief, he said, should look at the technical and financial aspects of building an interchange there.

Pamintuan's remarks came as he locked horns with Abaya over the building of other interchanges.

As Abaya followed Ms Arroyo's order, Pamintuan, Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid and Rep. Carmelo Lazatin have lobbied for interchanges in Barangay Planas in Porac and in Barangay Friendship/Margot in Angeles City.

Pamintuan has submitted a three-page memorandum, dated Sept. 14, to Ms Arroyo to push for the two sites.

Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

Fakes costing RP billions of pesos a year, says exec

By David Israel Sinay
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—THE COUNTRY has incurred revenue losses running to billions of pesos due to the entry of counterfeit goods in the market, said Adrian Cristobal, director general of Intellectual Property of the Philippines (IPP).

"We lose a lot of revenue on taxes that may have been used for social services because of these fakes' under valuation and illegal importation (smuggling) that affect the local industries and intellectual property owners," Cristobal told participants of a seminar on intellectual property policy held at the Western Visayas State University on Sept. 19 for the business sector and on Sept. 20 for the academe.

P1.4B in seized goods

He said that, for the first six months of 2007 alone, the government has seized P1.4 billion worth of local and foreign counterfeit goods, including pencils, medicines, shampoos, bags and shoes, among others.

FILIPINO workers put their skills to good use in the home-based production of decorative materials. The influx of smuggled counterfeit goods is stealing billions of pesos from these workers.

NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

"We really have to strengthen the Bureau of Customs," Cristobal said, citing the high volume of counterfeit goods coming in from other countries.

However, he noted that enforcement alone of the intellectual property right (IPR) law could not solve the problem and that it has to be stopped at the borders and at the level of suppliers.

Awareness

Cristobal said there was a need for public awareness, education, enforcement and stronger border controls to promote the importance of intellectual property in the Philippines:

"Consumers must also respect the intellectual property rights (IPR). There are a lot of fake cosmetics and medicines being sold. They patronize these because they are cheap but they pose risks," Cristobal said.

Ratings of Gloria, Mike dip amid NBN scandal

From page A1

ence between the number of respondents who are satisfied and dissatisfied. The survey had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Ms Arroyo has been the least popular of the four Philippine presidents since democracy was restored in 1986, the SWS had said previously.

The latest survey was taken from Sept. 2 to Sept. 5 when allegations of bribery and overpricing in the $329-million National Broadband Network project the government had awarded to China's ZTE Corp. began to hit newspaper headlines.

Ms Arroyo's husband was linked to the controversy when businessman Jose "Joey" de Venecia III, whose company was also contending for the project, claimed that Mike Arroyo tried to browbeat him into withdrawing his firm's proposal.

From neutral to negative

"Net satisfaction with the President dropped back to the negative level of the second to the fourth quarters of 2006, after being roughly neutral in first and second quarters of 2007," SWS said in a statement.

SWS noted that the average proportion trusting Mike Arroyo was only 20 percent, while the average proportion distrusting him was 51 percent since 2001.

That gave him an average net trust rating of -31 from January 2001 to September 2007.

The survey showed that Mike Arroyo was also "relatively distrusted" even by those who were satisfied with Ms Arroyo.

Nearly half (49 percent) of those who were satisfied with Ms Arroyo's performance distrusted Mike Arroyo, while 67 percent of those who were dissatisfied with her performance also distrusted him.

Although wielding no official powers, Mike Arroyo is regarded as an influential backroom operator and a vocal backer of his wife against political rivals. He has been linked to illegal gambling payoffs in the past, but has denied the charges.

SWS attributed the drop in Ms Arroyo's net satisfaction rating to "loss of support from Visayas and Mindanao, and worsening dissatisfaction in Luzon outside Metro Manila."

Net satisfaction with Ms Arroyo dropped from +10 in June (48 percent satisfied, 38 percent dissatisfied) to +1 in September (40 percent satisfied, 38 percent dissatisfied) in the Visayas.

It fell from +8 (44 percent satisfied, 36 percent dissatisfied) to -1 (38 percent satisfied, 38 percent dissatisfied) in Mindanao; and from -6 (37 percent satisfied, 43 percent dissatisfied) to -18 (32 percent satisfied, 50 percent dissatisfied) in Luzon outside Metro Manila.

Urban areas

In Metro Manila, however, it recovered from net -31 (26 percent satisfied, 57 percent dissatisfied) to -24 (28 percent satisfied, 52 percent dissatisfied).

Dissatisfaction with Ms Arroyo worsened in urban areas, while it turned from "mainly satisfied" to "merely neutral" in rural areas.

Her net satisfaction rating in urban areas dropped from -12 in June (36 satisfied, 48 percent dissatisfied) to -18 in September (32 percent satisfied, 50 percent satisfied).

In rural areas, it dropped from +8 (44 percent satisfied, 36 percent dissatisfied) to -3 (36 percent satisfied, 39 percent dissatisfied).

Across socioeconomic classes, satisfaction with Ms Arroyo's performance declined among members of Classes D and E.

It fell from neutral (40 percent satisfied, 40 percent dissatisfied) in June to net -13 (33 percent satisfied, 46 percent dissatisfied) in September among members of Class E.

It worsened from net -5 (39 percent satisfied, 44 percent dissatisfied) to net -12 (34 percent satisfied, 46 percent dissatisfied) among members of Class D.

Satisfaction with Ms Arroyo "slightly improved" among the middle-to-upper Classes ABC from +4 (41 percent satisfied, 37 percent dissatisfied) to +8 (46 percent satisfied, 38 percent dissatisfied).

The survey used face-to-face interviews with 1,200 adults divided into random samples of 300 each in Metro Manila, the rest of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, SWS said.

It said the survey was not commissioned and was done on SWS's own initiative as part of its quarterly Social Weather Surveys. *With a report from AP*

IN THE KNOW

The negative list

OTHER PERSONALITIES WHO scored low in public esteem in SWS surveys since 2001 were:

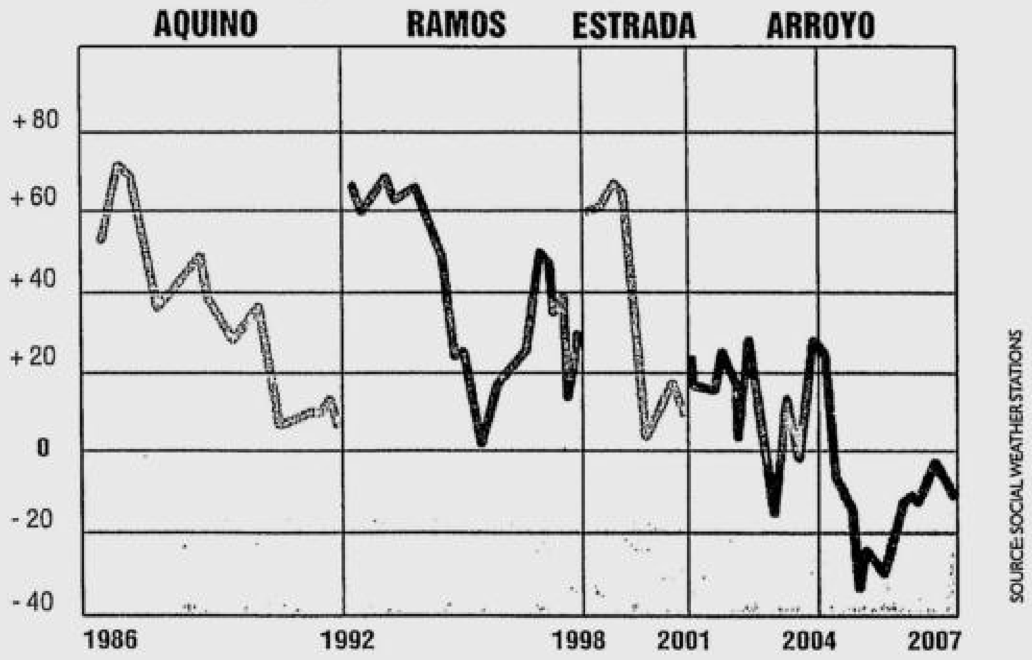
- Laarni Enriquez, former President Joseph Estrada's mistress, who scored a net trust rating of -35 in a survey following the July 2003 Oakwood mutiny, after she was mentioned as the owner of a house in which rebel paraphernalia were allegedly found.
- Former Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez, who scored a net trust rating of -37 in a survey conducted December 2002 at the height of the controversy surrounding his extradition in 2002.
- Businessman Kim Wong, who scored a net trust rating of -39 in an October 2001 survey, following allegations that Wong delivered drugs to Jude Estrada, son of former President Estrada, in 1999.
- Communist Party of the Philippines founder Jose Maria Sison, who scored a net trust rating of -47 in March 2005.
- Former Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Gov. Nur Misuari, who scored a net trust rating of -55 in March 2005. *Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research*

Trust in First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo

	Much Trust	Net trust
Jan-01	39%	14
Sep-01	28	-8
Nov-01	21	-21
Mar-02	22	-22
May-02	20	-34
Sep-02	23	-16
Mar-03	23	-26
Sep-03	17	-35
Nov-03	16	-41
Feb-04	21	-27
Mar-05	16	-44
May-05	17	-43
Aug-05	14	-48
Dec-05	18	-38
Mar-06	17	-39
Jun-06	18	-38
Sep-06	18	-41
Nov-06	18	-38
Feb-07	19	-33
Sep-07	20	-37

Net satisfaction ratings

Philippine Presidents: 1986 to September 2007



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IN THE KNOW

Who is Francisco?

LAWYER ERNESTO FRANCISCO LANDED in newspaper headlines in 1998 when he filed a lawsuit against toll collection on the Coastal Road.

Francisco said the Public Estates Authority and its Malaysian partner United Engineers Malaysia-Mara Philippines Corp. did not consult motorists before imposing the toll fees. PEA denied the charge. He lost the case.

Francisco was then an associate in the Accra law office, which he joined in 1990. For committing a breach of office policy for filing the lawsuit without its consent, Accra fired Francisco.

In November 2001, Francisco filed an impeachment complaint against Ombudsman Aniano Desierto. The lawyer claimed that in 1997, Desierto received from his client Luke Roxas video equipment worth more than P270,000 and P500,000 in cash in exchange for sitting on a case involving Roxas' bank.

Desierto said the complaint was part of a "well-funded demolition job" aimed at institutions involved in the plunder trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada, which he was prosecuting.

Roxas later said Francisco's allegations were all false.

In December 2001, the House committee on justice junked the impeachment complaint.

Francisco then trained his guns on Speaker Jose de Venecia, whom he accused of maneuvering the justice committee vote. He also asked the House to investigate De Venecia's alleged involvement in stopping the probe on the so-called 1997 Petron scam involving Roxas' Bank.

Bank Southeast Asia was then being investigated after a syndicate was able to encash checks amounting to P539 million that Petron Corp. had issued as payment to the Bureau of Customs. *Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

Lawyer asks Ombudsman ...

From page A1

tion of a toll fee on the coastal road and initiated an impeachment complaint against Ombudsman Aniano Desierto in 2001. He lost both cases. *(See In the Know above the story.)*

Citing news reports and clippings, Francisco stressed an urgent need for the antigraft body to conduct its own investigation parallel to the ongoing Senate probe on the participation of Arroyo and Abalos, the alleged broker, in the NBN deal with China.

He said certain big personalities and high government officials, including Arroyo and Abalos, might be spared from investigation, especially with the suspension of the NBN deal ordered by Ms Arroyo.

Code of conduct

Francisco also cited Executive Order No. 317 stipulating the code of conduct for relatives, close personal relations of the President, Vice President and members of the Cabinet.

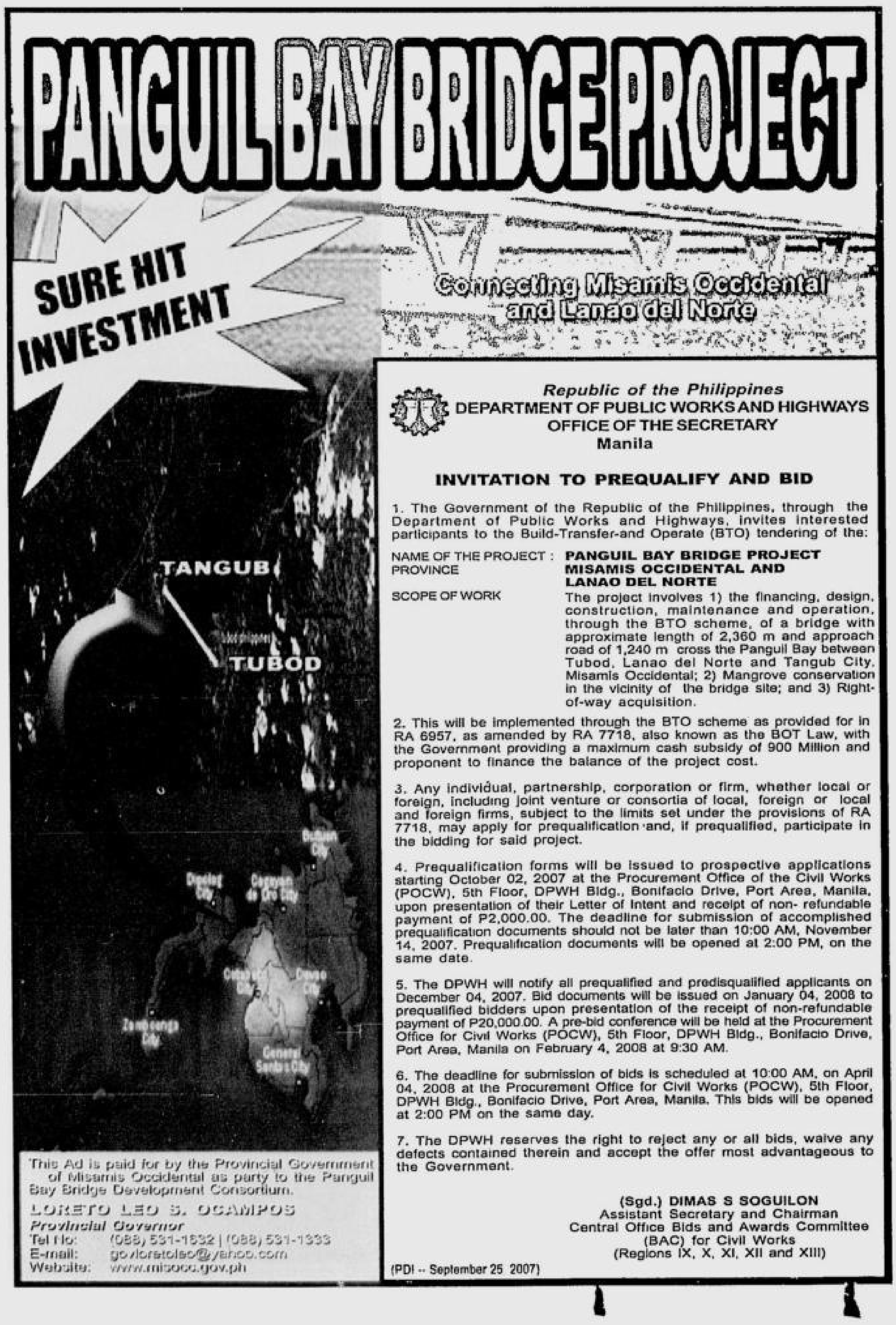
Under the executive order, relatives of these high-ranking government officials are prohibited from directly or indirectly engaging in transactions with the government, exerting undue influence on the outcome of public bidding and government contracts, having financial or pecuniary interest in any business, contract or transaction with the government, among others.

Violation of these provisions will subject the offender to criminal liabilities and will render null and void all agreements, contracts, and any other transaction entered into with the government.

Disgusted and sickened

"Like most citizens, I work very hard to earn an honest living. Thus, I am very disgusted and sickened by the unfolding of recent events relative to the [broadband] deal," Francisco said.

"The suspension does not absolve any one of liability if it is finally determined that there were irregularities committed. On the other hand, if at all, the ordered suspension of the deal by [Ms Arroyo] is strongly indicative of the possibility that the deal was in fact attended by irregularities," he stated.


PANGUIL BAY BRIDGE PROJECT
SURE HIT INVESTMENT
Connecting Misamis Occidental and Lanao del Norte
TANGUB
TUBOD

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Manila

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines, through the Department of Public Works and Highways, invites interested participants to the Build-Transfer-and Operate (BTO) tendering of the:

NAME OF THE PROJECT : PANGUIL BAY BRIDGE PROJECT
PROVINCE MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL AND LANAO DEL NORTE
SCOPE OF WORK The project involves 1) the financing, design, construction, maintenance and operation, through the BTO scheme, of a bridge with approximate length of 2,360 m and approach road of 1,240 m cross the Panguil Bay between Tubod, Lanao del Norte and Tangub City, Misamis Occidental; 2) Mangrove conservation in the vicinity of the bridge site; and 3) Right-of-way acquisition.

2. This will be implemented through the BTO scheme as provided for in RA 6957, as amended by RA 7718, also known as the BOT Law, with the Government providing a maximum cash subsidy of 900 Million and proponent to finance the balance of the project cost.

3. Any individual, partnership, corporation or firm, whether local or foreign, including joint venture or consortia of local, foreign or local and foreign firms, subject to the limits set under the provisions of RA 7718, may apply for prequalification and, if prequalified, participate in the bidding for said project.

4. Prequalification forms will be issued to prospective applications starting October 02, 2007 at the Procurement Office of the Civil Works (POCW), 5th Floor, DPWH Bldg., Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila, upon presentation of their Letter of Intent and receipt of non- refundable payment of P2,000.00. The deadline for submission of accomplished prequalification documents should not be later than 10:00 AM, November 14, 2007. Prequalification documents will be opened at 2:00 PM, on the same date.

5. The DPWH will notify all prequalified and predisqualified applicants on December 04, 2007. Bid documents will be issued on January 04, 2008 to prequalified bidders upon presentation of the receipt of non-refundable payment of P20,000.00. A pre-bid conference will be held at the Procurement Office for Civil Works (POCW), 5th Floor, DPWH Bldg., Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila on February 4, 2008 at 9:30 AM.

6. The deadline for submission of bids is scheduled at 10:00 AM, on April 04, 2008 at the Procurement Office for Civil Works (POCW), 5th Floor, DPWH Bldg., Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila. This bids will be opened at 2:00 PM on the same day.

7. The DPWH reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects contained therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) DIMAS S SOGUILON
Assistant Secretary and Chairman
Central Office Bids and Awards Committee
(BAC) for Civil Works
(Regions IX, X, XI, XII and XIII)

(PDI -- September 25 2007)

This Ad is paid for by the Provincial Government of Misamis Occidental as party to the Panguil Bay Bridge Development Consortium.

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Razon named national police chief

RAZON

By Alcuin Papa

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO yesterday announced the appointment of Deputy Director General Avelino Razon as the next chief of the 125,000-strong Philippine National Police.

Razon, currently PNP administration head, will replace Director General Oscar Calderon when the latter retires on Oct. 1 upon reaching the age of 56.

Ms Arroyo made the announcement during a business forum in Iligan City.

A graduate of the Philippine Military Academy, Class '74, Razon made a name tracking down international terrorists and securing presidents and dignitaries.

Razon, 54, was formerly deputy group commander for special operations of the Presidential Security Group and commander of PNP Region 7. In 1996, he was appointed chief of the Western Police District.

During the 1996 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Subic, then President Fidel Ramos tapped Razon to head the critical security operations. He also took charge of securing the heads of state who attended the Association of South East Asian Nations summit in Cebu early this year.

Razon's qualifications include expertise in Ranger operations, intelligence, underwater search and rescue, airborne operations, counterrevolutionary warfare, and drug law enforcement.

He is a sharpshooter, consistently topping shooting competitions, and an avid motorcycle rider. During his stint at the WPD, he started the "bike patrols" in Manila.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Razon thanked President Arroyo "for her trust and confidence."

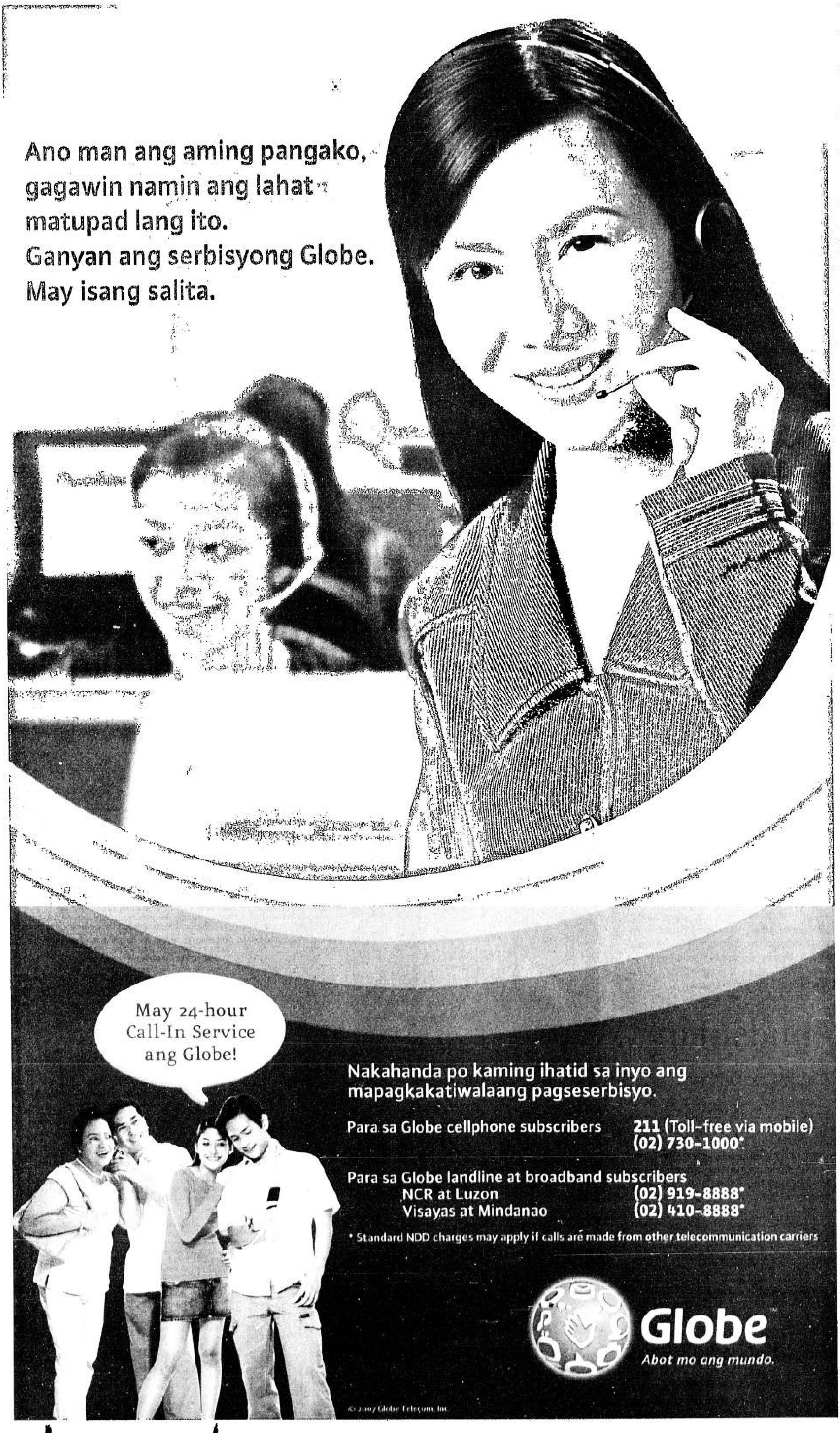
The appointment is a birthday gift for Razon, who turns 55 on Thursday.

"We promise to do good for the citizenry. This is a challenge to step up our service to the public," he said.

He said his first order to the PNP would be to "continue the programs" of his predecessors. "There should be sustainability of the programs of bringing the police closer to the community."

Calderon said he believed Razon was "competent to lead the organization. I am happy for him. He has the support of the officers of the PNP."

Razon was also reportedly the choice of prominent Chinese businessmen and civic organizations.



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Isafp chief during time of 'Garci' tapes retires

By Nikko Dizon

THE MILITARY NO LONGER HAS JURISDICtion over Vice Admiral Tirso Danga—who has been summoned to appear in the Senate investigation of the "Hello Garci" wiretapping controversy—following his retirement yesterday from the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"We lose military custody over him with his retirement," Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro, AFP spokesperson, said.

Danga was among the government and military officials prevented by Executive Order No. 464 and Memorandum Circular 108 issued by Malacañang from testifying in congressional hearings.

He was chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) at the time its agents were allegedly wiretapping the conversations of certain government officials around the time of the 2004 presidential elections.

In a surprising twist, the wiretaps caught several mobile phone conversations between President Macapagal-Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano on the vote count in the polls.

The President denied committing electoral fraud and she apologized for making the improper calls. The issue, however, has refused to die since 2005 when it was brought to light, and the Senate has reopened the Hello Garci probe.

Bacarro said he was not sure if Isafp had rules that prevent retired intelligence officers from divulging information about the unit's operations.

Danga turned 56 yesterday, the mandatory retirement age in the military. His last post was as chief of the Western Command in Palawan, which he relinquished in June.

Defense reporters lose computers

BURGLARS BROKE INTO THE PRESS OFfice at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City yesterday and stole three central processing units (CPUs), raising questions on the security at the sprawling headquarters of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, as well as speculations of media harassment.

In a statement, the Defense Press Corps, comprised of some 40 print and broadcast journalists covering the military and defense beats, condemned the break-in.

Remate reporter Verlin Ruiz, the outgoing press corps president, said that while the authorities were investigating the incident and the newsmen did not want to speculate on motives, "it cannot be discounted that some of us would think that this is some form of harassment."

It also could have been an inside job, the group acknowledged.

The three CPUs were part of the computers used by Ruiz, Victor Reyes of Malaya, Anthony Vargas of The Manila Times and Dennis Carcamo of Manila Standard Today to file their stories.

They were the newest of the seven computers at the press office.

The burglars, however, did not take with them a brand new television set, cable converter and other items in the office.

Ruiz and Joy Cantos of Pilipino Star Ngayon discovered the burglary at around 10 a.m. yesterday.

Ruiz said this was the first time the press office, consisting of two rooms, a toilet and kitchen, had been broken into. It is located beside the AFP Public Information Office behind the grandstand.

"We also have questions about the break-in... we are appealing to everyone to make themselves available for investigation," said Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro, AFP spokesperson. *Nikko Dizon*

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DID YOU KNOW

TODAY is the 128th birth anniversary of Lope K. Santos, who was born in Pasig on Sept. 25, 1879. The late poet and novelist, who is remembered as the Father of Filipino Grammar, was named director of the Surian ng Wikang Pambansa during Manuel L. Quezon's administration. As senator from 1919 to 1922, Santos authored the law creating Bonifacio Day. He also introduced measures that aimed to improve the working conditions of workers. Santos died on Labor Day in 1963.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

Ex-vice mayor found guilty of indirect contempt

Jail term 'very harsh'–Brillante

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE SANDIGANBAYAN YESTERday convicted former Makati Vice Mayor Roberto Brillante of indirect contempt after he accused three of its justices of accepting P10 million in bribe money from Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay in exchange for dismissing a case he was facing last year.

The antigraft court's Third Division sentenced Brillante to six months imprisonment and ordered him to pay a P30,000 fine. However, he was freed on bail after he posted a bond of P10,000 later in the day.

The conviction stemmed from Brillante's statements at a press conference in November last year alleging that Justices Godofredo Legaspi, Efren de la Cruz and Norberto Geraldez did not study the documents supporting the graft charge against Binay.

Instead, he claimed that the three occupied themselves with counting the money they received from the mayor. Brillante held the press conference after the court junked the graft complaint he had filed against Binay in 2003 over the mayor's alleged purchase of overpriced furniture and fittings for the new Makati City Hall between 1999 and 2001.

The three justices later ordered Brillante to explain why he should not be cited for indirect contempt.

"Brillante justified his statements by hiding under the mantle of freedom of speech and expression … the making of contemptuous statements directed against the court was not an exercise of free speech; rather, it was an abuse of such right," said the court decision penned by Legaspi.

Brillante, meanwhile, said the six-month jail term was "very harsh" but only to be expected from the justices who, he said, acted as "judge, jury and executioner."

"I was expecting to be reprimanded by the court, and to be given the usual 30-day prison term and the maximum fine of P30,000," he said. "But six months is too harsh for an indirect contempt charge," he added.

Brillante said that he would file an appeal in the Supreme Court. *With DJ Yap*

Edsa traffic lighter by weekend

By DJ Yap

THE LAYING OF drainage pipes to reduce or eliminate flooding on Edsa is taking longer than anticipated, prompting the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) to advise the public to take alternate routes to avoid traffic jams.

The agency has promised to work double time on the flood control project, which has led to heavy traffic on the thoroughfare for the past several days. It hopes to complete the pipelaying by Friday.

Alternate routes

Instead of taking Edsa-Main Avenue, motorists may use roads leading to C-5, Hemady, Mother Ignacia Avenue and the route leading to the Makati-Mandaluyong Bridge, said Angelito Vergel de Dios, MMDA Traffic Operations Center chief.

MMDA Flood Control and Sewerage Management Office Director Baltazar Melgar asked the public for more patience, noting that the MMDA closed only two lanes on Edsa, leaving four open to motorists.

"Traffic flow is relatively smooth from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., but the situation worsens during rush hour," he said.

The MMDA is installing 48-inch cross pipes from Main Avenue crossing Edsa toward a nearby creek to divert floodwaters from the highway.

SETTING UP & MANAGING EFFECTIVELY AN NGO OR FOUNDATION SEMINAR, Oct. 24, 2007. Topics: Getting Organized; Complete Project Cycle; Sourcing of Funding; Best Practices & Techniques; & Sustainability. Venue: Legend Hotel, 60 Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City, 1-5 PM. Early bird registrants get 10% discount. Call TKCP at 531-0084; 578-9833 CP: 0919-2299777; 0919-2299780; 0915-7804379 or email: tritium@pldtdsl.net or tkcp_ph@yahoo.com. Limited seats only. Register Now!

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GMA administration more corrupt than Erap's?

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

PRESIDENT GLORIA WILL grant with alacrity convicted former President Erap's request that he be given absolute pardon without him admitting guilt.

Her advisers have apparently told her that if she grants pardon to Erap, her successor might also look kindly on her should she be convicted of the same offense of plunder in the future.

Plunder cases and cases involving the disappearances and murders of political activists and journalists await GMA after she steps down in 2010.

What goes around comes around. That's the law of karma.

What she has done to Erap will surely be done to her.

* * *

If businessman Jose "Joey" de Venecia III, son and namesake of the Speaker, is telling the truth on the $329-million National Broadband Network (NBN) project, then what Erap allegedly stole from the country is peanuts compared to this administration's reported corruption.

The Chinese firm ZTE Corp. has allegedly advanced $50 million to some government bigwigs and influential people for the approval of the NBN contract.

Multiplied at the current exchange rate of P46 to the US dollar, that's P2.3 billion in cold cash! Add to the P2.3 billion the other amounts allegedly earned by the grafters in other controversial billion-peso projects like the fertilizer scam and the Diosdado Macapagal Highway construction overprice, and you have mind-boggling figures.

* * *

Now that the controversial project has been suspended by both the Supreme Court and the President herself, the problem facing the ZTE Corp., the alleged briber, is how to get back the money it has advanced.

Of course, the money must already have been spent by the bribe recipients. One report says one of the recipients already bought a P200-million mansion in an exclusive village.

And who knows, part of the bribe money might have already been deposited in some European banks.

Had those guys been dealing with the Mafia, they would now be dead.

* * *

The Philippine National Police (PNP) high command says stations and precincts will be cleaned or repaired to make them look presentable to the public, and thus build trust and confidence in the police.

But however clean and spruced up a precinct or station is, if its occupants are grouchy and discourteous to complainants, the bad image of the police will not improve.

There's an old Filipino saying that no matter how old and rundown a house is, if its occupants are human and humane beings, then the house is still a home.

Most citizens avoid going to a police station or precinct because they find the place full of cops who think they're masters instead of public servants.

For example, instead of getting sympathy from a desk officer at the station, a complainant is either ignored or shouted at.

Worse, some police investigators demand money for gasoline or bond paper from an aggrieved citizen so his complaint may be attended to.

There are instances when a citizen calls a police station or precinct because there is trouble in his neighborhood, only to be told that there is no vehicle for responding cops so they can go to the troubled spot.

QC housewife loses ₱1.7M; suspect in rob nabbed by cops

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

A HOUSEMAID WAS ARRESTED last week by the police after her employer lost more than P1.7 million in cash and jewelry.

Evelyn de Guia-Magboo, 48, a resident of Victorian Heights, Novaliches, Quezon City, called up the police at 5 p.m. Friday to report that her helper, Preciosa Cajara, 40, had made off with P1.2 million in cash and over P500,000 worth of jewelry.

Magboo told authorities that she was at work when she received a call from her son who told her that he could not enter their house because it was locked.

Cajara, her son added, was nowhere to be found.

One of Magboo's sons later came home and the brothers decided to enter the house through a window, police said.

Inside the house, the two discovered that the door leading to the master bedroom was open and that the safety vault where their mother kept her valuables had been emptied of its contents.

Beside the vault, they found a hammer, a kitchen knife and a screw driver which police believe were used by the suspect to open the vault.

SPO1 Ronaldo Murado and SPO1 Leopoldo Macarage of the Quezon City Police District station 4 were conducting an investigation that same night when Cajara was spotted in the subdivision. She was immediately arrested.

A tricycle driver later told the police that he had taken the suspect, who had with her a box which she said contained an air conditioner, to a mall near the area. The suspect then got off his tricycle with the box and boarded a taxi.

Exhumed body of girl subjected to new tests

By Allison W. Lopez

FORENSIC EXPERTS YESTERday exhumed the body of the young girl—believed to be that of Geraldine Palma—found inside a suitcase in Tondo last month and subjected it a battery of tests to confirm the victim's identity.

The forensic experts were led by Dr. Renato Bautista of the National Bureau of Investigation medico-legal division. They were accompanied by members of the bureau's Special Task Force and the Manila Police District's homicide division.

The MPD and NBI are conducting parallel investigations of the rape and killing of Palma, a 7-year-old student who disappeared with her nanny, Marites Ontog, last August.

The body recovered was believed to be Palma's until Manila police raised doubts about the girl's identity after Palma's records showed she was several inches shorter than the girl in the suitcase.

Palma's parents, Gerald and Felma, were present when personnel of the Funeraria Paz dug up the girl's coffin at the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque City, at 1:30 p.m.

A priest blessed the coffin before it was brought to a chapel inside the memorial park where forensic experts conducted an "exhaustive re-autopsy" that included an X-ray, fingerprinting, dental examination and DNA testing.

"Of course, I'm sad because my daughter's body was disturbed but I hope it would all be worth the trouble," said Gerald Palma, whose DNA sample was taken last Wednesday.

NBI-STF head agent Arnel Dalumpines said the results of the DNA exam would be out after a month.

He added that they were still looking for Ontog, whom they consider as the key to the Palma case.

THE BODY believed to be that of 7-year-old Geraldine Palma was exhumed yesterday at the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque City to settle the question of the girl's identity. REM ZAMORA

Cris Mendez's ma gets offer to settle case

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THE MOTHER OF SUSPECTED hazing victim, University of the Philippines student Cris Anthony Mendez, has been approached by an unidentified man who advised her to agree to an out-of-court settlement.

Two sources close to the Mendez family told the INQUIRER that Cristina, the victim's mother, was recently confined in a hospital in Quezon province when her blood pressure shot up after she was approached by the stranger.

According to the sources, who spoke independently to the INQUIRER on condition of anonymity, the man who said he was a University of the Philippines alumnus, reportedly told Cristina to agree to a settlement because even if she were to take the case to court, it would take some time before it could be resolved.

The man added that there was also a strong possibility that she would not end up getting justice for her son's death.

Her confinement in the hospital prevented Cristina from attending a Mass celebrated yesterday by Fr. Robert Reyes at the UP National College of Public Administration and Governance. The victim was the college representative to the UP Student Council in Diliman. But in her message to those who attended the event, Cristina said in Filipino: "I am praying and I am still searching for justice. Many tell me that this is hard to achieve because those responsible for my son's death are intelligent, rich and influential."

Faith

She added: "Often my faith falters, and I am only filled with hope each time I am with you who continue to pray that those responsible for my son's death would be brought to justice. I hope that you will not stop, like me and Renz (her younger son) and that you will not forget."

"It is almost one month after his death, but the sadness and loneliness I feel for him has not been lessened. I still do not understand why he had to die that way and this early," she said.

Reyes and other UP officials later unveiled a painting done by former UP Visayas fraternity leader Joel Ferraris, titled "The Wrong Sacrifice."

Reyes said that the artwork was "the artist's way of expressing his profound indignation and rejection of fraternity violence and his appeal to fraternities to see the blindness, arrogance and vanity that have repeatedly led to senseless and wasteful deaths."

Spare Calauit animals, Lim asked

By Jerome Aning

THE ANIMAL WELFARE GROUP People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta) has asked Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim not to push through with his plan to get more animals from Calauit Island in Palawan province to replenish the dwindling number at the city zoo.

Peta Asia-Pacific director Jason Baker said the city government should instead find ways to improve the welfare of the animals or close down the Manila Zoo and set its residents free in wildlife reservations.

"Given the problems with the zoo's aging infrastructure, it would be extremely cruel to subject even more animals to such miserable conditions," Baker said in his Sept. 21 letter to Lim, a copy of which was provided by Peta to the INQUIRER.

Lim earlier rejected calls from the group to close down the zoo, saying he even plans to add more animals. "We've already asked officials in Calauit Island if they can spare us some of their animals there," he said, adding that his office would take care of freight costs.

Animals at the zoo are housed in cramped cages, according to Baker. In the summer, they cope with the sweltering heat with little relief.

"Even animals who have been caged since birth feel the instinctive need to move around freely, stretch their limbs or wings and exercise," he said, adding that studies have shown that confined animals suffer from boredom, some so severely that it can lead to self-mutilation or other self-destructive behavior.

The animal rights advocate said he would like to give Lim a personal tour around the zoo "to point out all the suffering that takes place constantly there."

Boy with hole in his heart needs help

BRYAN TABAGO'S HEALTH PROblems began when he was born.

The 3-year-old son of Meriam Tabago of Pearl Island Compound, Malinis Street, Lawang Bato, Valenzuela City, has a congenital heart disease.

Bryan has been an outpatient at the Philippine Heart Center in East Avenue, Quezon City, for almost three years now.

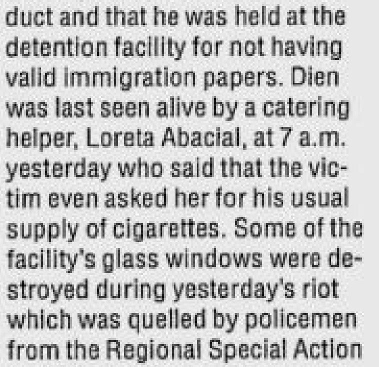
There is a hole in his heart which was discovered when he was only two months old, Meriam said in her letter to the INQUIRER.

According to the housewife, whose husband works a delivery man, Bryan needs to be operated on right away because his condition has already affected his heart and this might lead to bigger expenses.

The only problem is that the family does not have the P60,000 to P100,000 for the operation needed to repair the damage in the young boy's heart.

"I am appealing to Inquirer readers for financial assistance as well as prayers for a successful operation," Meriam said in Filipino.

Kindhearted individuals can deposit their donations in any Metrobank branch (account number 3165962649, account name Meriam Tabago). They may also call her at 4445420 or 0910-3115088. *Santiago R. Alcantara*



METROBRIEFS

Robbers strike in QC

THREE unidentified men yesterday robbed two employees of the Bureau of Internal Revenue of over P400,000 in cash and checks belonging to the bureau's cooperative. BIR clerk Alberto Napiñas, 48, and Randy Trebajo, 20, a utility worker, told police that they were on their way to the Land Bank of the Philippines on Timog Avenue, Quezon City, to deposit the money when three men pointed guns at them and declared a holdup. The victims said they were forced to hand over the P216,500 in cash and P183,292 worth of checks they were carrying. Authorities said they are looking into the possibility of an inside job after Napiñas and Trebajo told them they had been depositing money in the bank just a few blocks away from the BIR office on Quezon Avenue every day for the last couple of months.

Kenneth M. del Rosario

Prisoners stage riot

PRISONERS at the Bureau of Immigration detention facility in Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig City, yesterday threw rocks and bottles, after an inmate, a Vietnamese man, was found dead in an isolation cell yesterday. The naked body of Teh Min Lee Dien was found at 10:45 a.m. but it did not have any injury or bruises. Chief Insp. Celso Rodriguez, chief of the Taguig City police investigation division, said the victim was kept in isolation for misconduct and that he was held at the detention facility for not having valid immigration papers. Dien was last seen alive by a catering helper, Loreta Abacial, at 7 a.m. yesterday who said that the victim even asked her for his usual supply of cigarettes. Some of the facility's glass windows were destroyed during yesterday's riot which was quelled by policemen from the Regional Special Action Unit. The victim's body was taken to the Veronica Funeral Homes for autopsy.

Julie M. Aurelio

Cleofas Pineda; 93

CLEOFAS "Opa" Santos-Pineda, of San Luis, Pampanga, died on Sept. 22 at age 93. She is survived by children Renato and Violy Pineda, Rebelita and Jess Villanueva, Regie and Tina Pineda, VI and Emy Bamba, Roland and Julie Pineda, Rolina Adao and Rozalda Aquino; grandchildren and great grandchildren. The body lies at the Orchid Chapel of Sanctuario funeral homes at the corner of Araneta and Quezon Avenues in Quezon City. Interment will be on Thursday, Sept. 27, at the Eternal Gardens Memorial Park in Balintawak, Quezon City, after a Mass at 9 a.m.

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RFA 2007-03-02

PRISM is a project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under USAID Contract Number 492-C-00-04-00036-00 and implemented by Chemonics International Incorporated.

Grant funding of up to a total amount of PHP 6M will be awarded to four qualified grant applicants in accordance with standard USAID policies.

This solicitation is open to Philippine-based and SEC-registered health oriented management or training institutions that have extensive experience with IUD (intra-uterine device), BTL (bilateral tubal ligation) and NSV (no-scalpel vasectomy) training systems in the public or private sector. Specific eligibility requirements are indicated in the Request for Applications (RFA) document.

The solicitation document will be released on **Tuesday, 25 September 2007**. Applicants interested in getting the full details of this solicitation can request for copies of the full RFA document from grants@prism.org.ph. Likewise, the RFA can be downloaded in PDF format from http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/PRISMGrants/. The closing date for the submission of application is **5:00pm, 26 October 2007**.

Grant Applicants' Conferences will be held at the following PRISM offices: **8 October 2007,** 9am at the PRISM Manila office 23/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza, F. Ortigas Jr. Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City; **11 October 2007,** 2pm at the PRISM Davao office, 7/F Pryce Tower, Pryce Business Park, J.P. Laurel Ave., Davao City; **12 October 2007, 2 pm** at the PRISM Cebu office Gold Zeal, 2F Cebu Holdings Center, Cebu Business Park, Cardinal Rosales Ave., Cebu City.

For further details, please contact Agnes Payson at this e-mail address apayson@prism.org.ph.

(PDI -- September 25 & 30, 2007)

US snipers 'bait' Iraqis –Post

Shooters scatter fancy items, kill those who pick them up

WASHINGTON—AT THE URGING of Pentagon experts in special operations, US military snipers operating in Iraq are "baiting" Iraqis by scattering items like detonation cord, plastic explosives and ammunition and then ambushing and killing those who pick them up, The Washington Post reported Monday.

The newspaper said the classified program was described in investigative documents related to recently filed murder charges against three snipers who are accused of planting evidence on Iraqis they killed.

"Baiting is putting an object out there that we know they will use, with the intention of destroying the enemy," Captain Matthew Didier, the leader of an elite sniper scout platoon is quoted as saying in a sworn statement.

"Basically, we would put an item out there and watch it," Didier continued. "If someone found the item, picked it up and attempted to leave with the item, we would engage the individual as I saw this as a sign they would use the item against US forces."

In documents obtained by The Post from family members of the accused soldiers, Didier said members of the Pentagon's Asymmetric Warfare Group visited his unit in January and later passed along ammunition boxes filled with the "drop items" to be used to disrupt "... attempts at harming Coalition Forces and give us the upper hand in a fight."

Eugene Fidell, president of the National Institute of Military Justice, said such a baiting program should be examined "quite meticulously" because it raises troubling possibilities, such as what happens when civilians pick up the items, the paper said.

"In a country that is awash in armaments and magazines and implements of war, if every time somebody picked up something that was potentially useful as a weapon, you might as well ask every Iraqi to walk around with a target on his back," Fidell is quoted in the article as saying.

Soldiers said that about a dozen platoon members were aware of the program, and that numerous others knew about the "drop items" but did not know their purpose, The Post reported.

Two soldiers, who had not been officially informed about the program, came forward with allegations of wrongdoing after they learned they were going to be punished for falling asleep on a sniper mission, the paper said.

Army officials declined to discuss the classified program, according to the report. *AFP*

SHEIKH Muszaphar Shukor, Malaysia's soon-to-be first astronaut, walks near St. Basil's Cathedral on Red Square in Moscow, on Sept. 20. AFP

Muslim astronaut needn't fast in space during Ramadan, says minister

PUTRAJAYA, MALAYSIA—Malaysia's first astronaut will not be required to fast while in space even though he is a Muslim and the flight will be during Ramadan, a government minister said Monday.

"When you travel there is no compulsion to fast," Science Minister Jamaluddin Jarjis told reporters.

Sheikh Muszaphar Shukor, 35, is one of three people who will lift off in a Russian space craft on Oct. 10 for a 10-day mission in the International Space Station. He has said that as a good Muslim he hopes to fast in space even though his main priority is to conduct scientific experiments.

But Jamaluddin said Sheikh Muszaphar, who has been fasting during training along with his backup Faiz Khaleed, can postpone the fasting until after he returns.

The fasting month of Ramadan started on Sept. 13 and is expected to end on Oct. 12, which means Sheikh Muszaphar will have to fast for only two or three days if he insists on not eating from dawn to dusk, an Islamic religious requirement.

Jamaluddin also said he expects Sheikh Muszaphar to pray only three times a day instead of the obligatory five to reduce the inconvenience of going through prayer rituals in the gravity-free atmosphere.

Observant Muslims are required to turn toward Mecca in Saudi Arabia, and pray five times a day while kneeling. However, that becomes difficult in zero gravity while the space station is circling the Earth 16 times a day.

Malaysia's National Fatwa Council has ruled that the astronaut will not be required to kneel to pray if the absence of gravity makes it too hard, nor will he have to wash hands and face with water as required—a simple wet towel will do.

Jamaluddin said Malaysia is hoping to send a second astronaut into space, depending on public support for the first mission. He said the second mission would cost $30 million, but the long-term benefits would be worth it.

"If there is good strong public support we should continue the mission to sustain the awareness. We should look not only on short-term return but also medium to long term."

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi wished Sheikh Muszaphar success.

Sheikh Muszaphar will return to earth on Oct. 20 along with two members of the station's crew, cosmonauts Fyodor Yurchikhin and Oleg Kotov. *AP*

Military operation frees 2 Italian soldiers kidnapped in Afghanistan

HERAT, AFGHANISTAN—NATO FORCES freed two kidnapped Italian soldiers in a military operation in western Afghanistan in which both men were wounded, Italian and Afghan officials said Monday.

The two men, soldiers with the Nato-led International Security Assistance Force, had gone missing in the western province of Herat on Saturday with their Afghan interpreter and driver.

"There was an Isaf operation and they were rescued. Both of them are injured," the Italian embassy in Kabul said. It was not clear who had abducted them, a diplomat said on condition of anonymity.

At least five of the abductors were killed in the raid to free the men, Italy's Ansa news agency reported.

Italian soldiers led the Nato operation to free them, supported by British troops, Italian Defence Minister Arturo Parisi said on Rai public television.

The Isaf media office in Kabul could not immediately confirm any operation.

The Italian defense ministry in Rome was quoted by Ansa as saying that one of the two soldiers was in serious condition. Both men were being treated in a Nato hospital, it said.

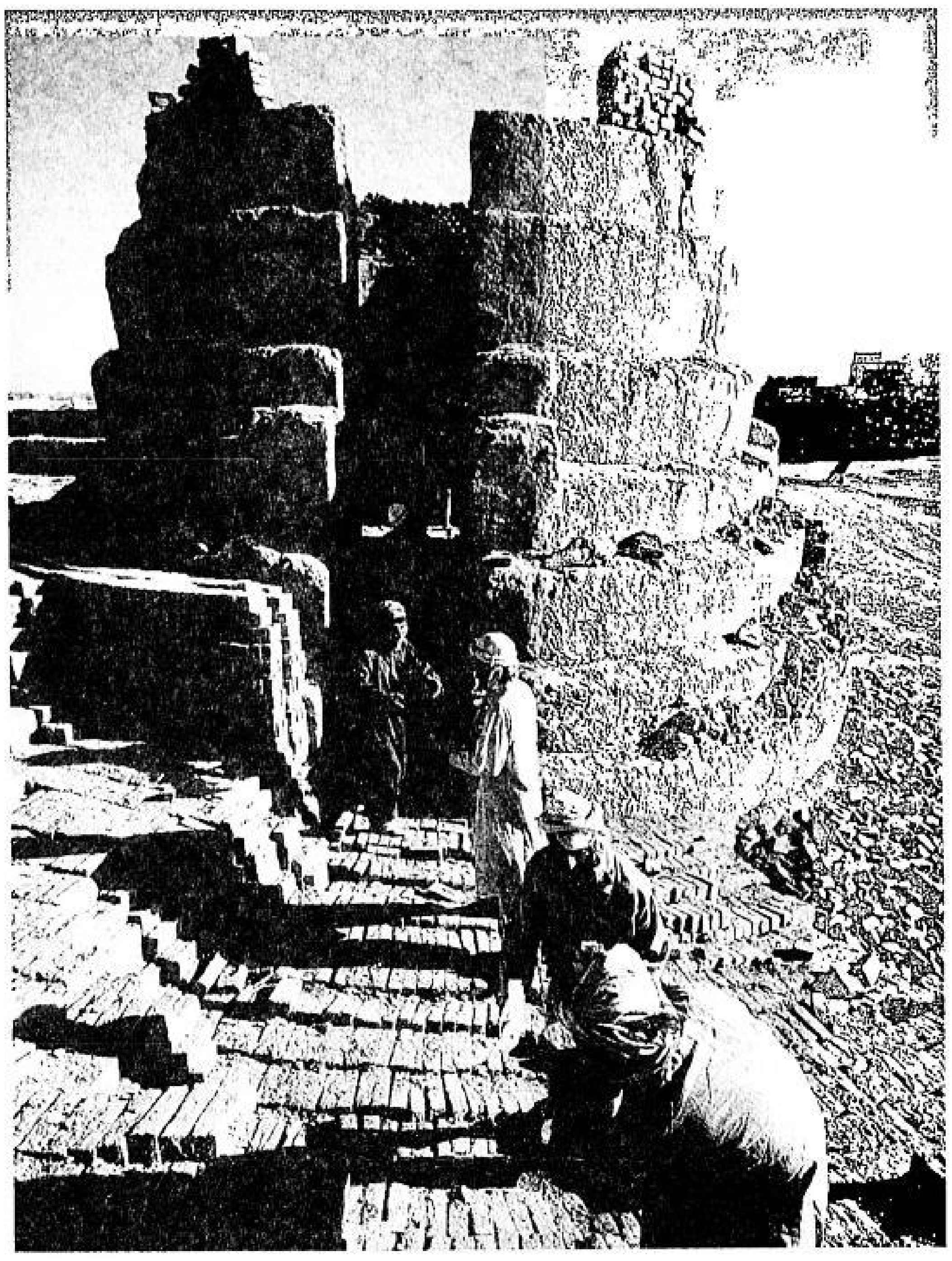
Afghan officials also confirmed the men were freed in an Isaf rescue operation but had no details.

Intelligence reports indicated the men were captured by a local Taliban commander near Herat's Shindand district, the police chief of criminal investigations for western Afghanistan, Ali Khan Husseinzada, said.

However the main Taliban spokesperson, Yousuf Ahmadi, said he knew nothing about the men. The militia, waging an antigovernment insurgency, has been behind several abductions including of 23 South Koreans in July.

"According to our intelligence information, a Taliban commander, Mullah Abdul Hamid, had taken them and had moved them to an area between Farah (province) and Shindand," Husseinzada said.

The men had been out of contact since they visited the volatile district on Saturday. *AFP*



AFGHAN workers load bricks from a kiln in Kabul, on Sept. 24. Some 50 factories in western Kabul produce hand-made bricks used for the reconstruction of buildings in the Afghan capital which were destroyed during two decades of war. AFP

BRAILLE, CHINESE-STYLE

A group of blind children read Chinese braille, which is based on the sounds of the language, as there are no braille signs for individual Chinese characters, at one of the only school for the blind in Hefei, central China's Anhui province on Sept. 23. AFP

Japan PM-designate Fukuda picks lieutenants

TOKYO—JAPAN'S PRIME MINISTER-to-be Yasuo Fukuda selected his party lieutenants on Monday as he braced for a showdown with a combative opposition and calls for early elections after a disastrous year for the ruling coalition.

The 71-year-old Fukuda, a moderate who favors warmer ties with Asia, was voted leader of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) on Sunday after the abrupt resignation of his predecessor, Shinzo Abe, whose administration was crippled by scandals and gaffes.

Fukuda will automatically become prime minister on Tuesday thanks to the LDP's huge majority in parliament's lower house.

However, the opposition Democratic Party and its allies hold sway in the upper house, an unusual situation that is likely to beset Fukuda's administration with policy struggles.

The thorniest issue may be Japan's naval support for US-led military operations in Afghanistan, which the LDP wants to continue beyond a Nov. 1 mandate expiry in the face of opposition from the muscle-flexing Democratic Party.

Fukuda, who beat the hawkish Taro Aso to the top job, picked conservative former education minister Ibuki Bunmei, a faction leader and loyal ally in the leadership election, for the No. 2 position in his party, replacing Aso.

Allies Sadakazu Tanigaki, a doveish former finance minister, but also a faction leader, and Toshihiro Nikai were named for the other top party posts. Another Fukuda backer, Makoto Koga, was put in charge of election strategy.

Fukuda denied that the appointments had been made on the basis of factional deals, the LDP's traditional way of operating. "I chose the best people for the positions," he told reporters.

Analysts say the party would have difficulty restoring public trust if Fukuda was seen to be appointing cronies or factional candidates to key cabinet and party positions.

Tanigaki has advocated raising the consumption tax to help tame Japan's huge public debt, and his appointment is a sign that the issue will be at the center of the new government's policy.

Some analysts have expressed concern that efforts to help those who have lost out economically in restructuring of the past few years could result in making the government debt bigger. *Reuters*

Young Israelis dodge the draft, some in protest

By Elana Ringler
and Rebecca Harrison

JERUSALEM—TO MANY SHE IS A traitor, a coward and a parasite. But 17-year-old Israeli "draft dodger" Saar Vardi says if more people thought like her, the Middle East would be a more peaceful place.

Vardi is part of a growing group of young Israelis who are refusing to sign up for mandatory military service, often in protest over the Jewish state's occupation of Palestinian territory or because of last year's unpopular war in Lebanon.

Army statistics show the number of young people who do not enlist for military service has crept up in recent years to more than one in four men in 2007 and more than 43 percent of women.

"People refer to me as a traitor and say that my country has given me so much and I'm not willing to give anything back, like a parasite," Vardi, a student, said.

"But I know what I believe ... If truly everyone saw things the way I see them, then we wouldn't need an army."

Most Israeli men have to serve for three years in the army and are liable for reserve duty after that unless they can prove they are physically or psychologically unfit for battle, or come from an ultra-Orthodox background. Women must do 21 months.

Until recently, opting out of military service was largely taboo in a nation born out of war, and in constant conflict with its Arab neighbors. Groups of young soldiers clutching rifles are a common sight on the streets of Israel and for many, serving in the army goes to the core of national identity.

The trend to avoid the draft—which has been joined by some entertainers—has sparked heated media debate and government pledges to act.

"When he goes into battle a soldier should not have to feel that a portion of our society regards him as a sucker," Defense Minister Ehud Barak was reported as saying in July.

Ultra Orthodox Jews have been exempt from military service for years, and their ranks are growing. But more secular Israelis are also finding ways around joining up, sometimes by saying they are conscientious objectors or unfit.

Some say they are loath to fight for an occupying force and are willing to go to jail for their beliefs.

Others say they do not trust Ehud Olmert's government with their lives after a report said the prime minister acted impulsively in going to war against Lebanon last year.

And some young Israelis would simply rather focus on their education or career than on defending their country.

"There's the ongoing wars and the ongoing occupation," said Hagay Matar, who spent two years in prison for refusing the draft. "People are starting to feel they don't have to do it."

But several mayors have vowed not to allow entertainers who did not enlist to take part in Israel's 60th anniversary celebrations next year, and one suggested denying them jobs in municipal government.

Some commentators have lambasted those who shun military service, reminding them they face jail.

But those who resist military service have also found support. Columnist Yonatan Gefen asked in the Ma'ariv newspaper why Israel's youth would want to fight in an army "that doesn't know what it is dying for." *Reuters*

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Indonesia seeks $1.4B from Suharto

SUHARTO AP

JAKARTA—THE Indonesian government sought Monday for ex-dictator Suharto and a charity he chaired while in power to hand over $1.4 billion in stolen assets and damages in a civil suit against them.

State prosecutor Dachmer Munthe, reading an indictment at the opening hearing, said that Suharto and the Supersemar Scholarship Foundation misused $440 million.

"The first and second defendants (Suharto and the foundation) utilized funds that were gathered... against the aims of the foundation," he said.

Munthe said the government was also seeking additional damages of 10 trillion rupiah ($1 billion).

The prosecutor alleged that the foundation had distributed funds meant to go to needy students to private companies from 1982 to 1993.

"If that money can be recovered, there will be more than a thousand people who could obtain scholarships," Munthe added.

The recipients included an airline owned by Suharto's youngest son that went bankrupt, an ailing bank in which the foundation had stakes and paper and pulp companies linked to a close Suharto crony, Muhammad "Bob" Hassan.

At the trial, a group representing former and current recipients of scholarships from the foundation presented a demand to be involved in the lawsuit as plaintiffs, apparently fearing they could be asked to return the funds they received.

Judge Wahyono, who is heading the panel of judges hearing the case, accepted the intervention and said a decision would later be made as to the position of the group in the suit.

The civil suit represents apparently revived efforts by the government of President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono to bring Suharto to justice, although analysts have been doubtful that the case—resting on evidence decades old—will succeed.

A long-running criminal case against Suharto was abandoned in May last year on health grounds, triggering widespread criticism of Yudhoyono.

In a surprise ruling earlier this month, the Supreme Court awarded Suharto about $106 million in damages in a libel case against US-based Time magazine, which alleged in a 1999 article that the ex-president and his family had stolen up to $73 billion.

The aging Suharto stepped down amid violent protests in 1998 after a 32-year rule.

A successful case against him would be seen as a symbolic step to improving Indonesia's dismal corruption record. *AFP*

100,000 demonstrate against Burma generals

RANGOON, BURMA—AS MANY AS 100,000 antigovernment protesters led by a phalanx of Buddhist monks marched Monday through Rangoon (Yangon), the largest crowd to demonstrate in Burma's biggest city since a 1988 prodemocracy uprising that was brutally crushed by the military.

Some participants claimed there were several hundred thousand marchers in their ranks, but an international aid agency official with employees monitoring the crowd estimated said the size was well over 50,000 and approaching 100,000. From the front of the march, witnesses could see a one-mile stretch of eight-lane road was filled with people.

The march, launched from the Shwedagon pagoda, the country's most sacred shrine, gathered participants as it wended its way through Rangoon's streets under cloudy skies. Some 20,000 monks took the lead, with onlookers joining in on what had been billed as a day of general protest.

The march covered at least 10 km in its first few hours, passing by the old campus of Rangoon University, a hotbed of protest in past times. Students were seen joining Monday's march.

The current protests began on Aug. 19 as a movement against economic hardship, after the government sharply raised fuel prices. But it has its basis in long-standing dissatisfaction with the repressive military government, and increasingly protesters are taking up the prodemocracy movement's demands of national reconciliation and freeing of political prisoners.

The usually iron-fisted junta has so far kept minimal security at the protests, and diplomats and analysts said the military rulers of Burma (also known as Myanmar) were showing the unexpected restraint because of pressure from the country's key trading partner and diplomatic ally, China.

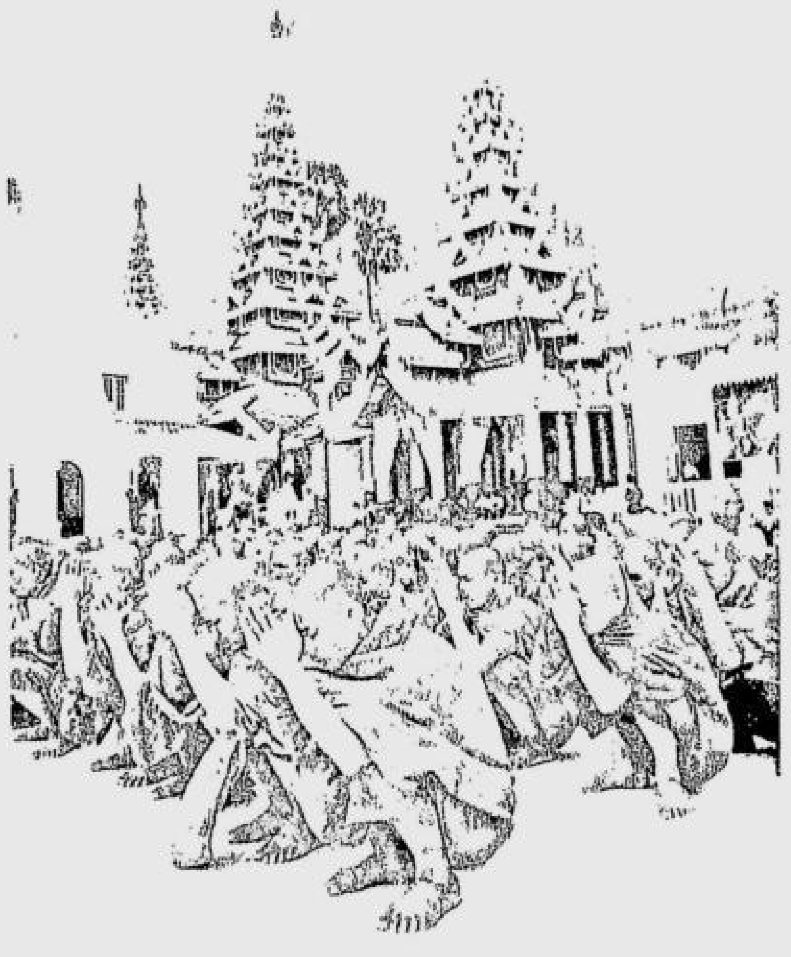
The march kicked off, like the previous ones, at the Shwedagon.

Their numbers swelled quickly as they began their march. The monks invited the public to join the rally, and top local movie actor Kyaw Thu offered the clerics alms at the Rangoon landmark in the first public support by local celebrities.

In the central city of Mandalay, 500-600 monks set off shortly after noon on their own protest march.

The monks, who took over a faltering protest movement from political activists, already had managed to bring people into the streets in numbers not seen since the 1988 prodemocracy uprising snuffed out by the army at a cost of thousands of lives.

The increasingly confrontational tone of the antigovernment protesters has raised both expectations of possible political change and fear that the military might forcefully stamp out the demonstrations, as it did in 1988. *AP*


MONKS pray at the Shwedagon Pagoda, the holiest shrine in Burma, before joining an antigovernment march to Rangoon on Sept. 23. REUTERS

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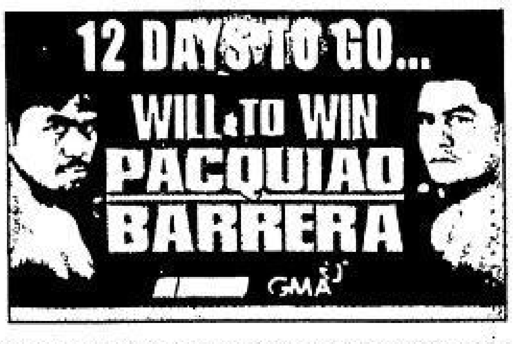

Indon GM ahead; Torre surges

Standings after six rounds:

5.0 points—S. Megaranto (Indonesia); 4.5—N. Parimarjan (India), G.N. Gopal (India); **4.0—E. Torre (RP)**, W. Hao (China), Z, Jianchao (China), D. Neelotpal (India), A. Kunte (India), M. Al-Modiahki (Qatar), E. Hossain (Bangladesh), C. Deepan (India); **3.5—R. Antonio (RP), *M.Paragua (RP), W. So (RP), S. Yap (RP), D. Laylo (RP)**, N.HU (China). E. Maghami (Iran), U. Adianto Indonesia), C. Sandipan (Idia). A. Bagheri (Iran), Y. Shaoteng (China), S. Yang (China), L. Chao (China), D.T. Hai (Vietnam), T.H. Thong (Vietnam). W. Yang (Chna), T. Batchuluun (Mongolia), A. Fillipob (Uzbekistan)*; **3.0—R. Bancod (RP), J. Sadorra (RP)**, K. Alexey (Korea), M. Ardeshi (Iran), W. Zhou (China), S. Khadr (Jordan), S. Ganguly (India), E.Moradiabadi (Iran); **2.5—O. Dimakiling (RP), R. Bitoon (RP), B. Nadera (RP), R. Legaspi (RP)**, N. A. Husein (Iraq), P. Arun (India), A. Samhouri (Jordan), H. Toufighi (Iran)

MANDAUE CITY—SUSANO MEGARANTO OF INDONESIA BLEW AN EARLY positional advantage with the white pieces but still managed a draw with fellow grandmaster G.N. Gopal of India in 55 moves of the Sicilian to keep the solo lead in the sixth Asian Individual Chess Championship at the Cebu International Convention Center.

It was the second draw in as many days for the 20-year-old Indonesian GM after racking up four straight wins, including two against Filipino foes.

But it was enough to give Megaranto, one of two Indonesians in the tournament, the solo lead with five points in the tough, 11-round tournament.

But the day also belonged to Asia's first GM Eugene Torre, who made his presence felt as he overpowered No. 43 GM Alexey Kim of South Korea in 49 moves of the Four Knights' Opening.

The 56-year-old Filipino chess icon, who defeated FM Sami Khader of Jordan in the previous round, also boosted his chances for one of 10 slots to the World Chess Cup in Russia with four points on three wins, two draws and only one loss.

GM-candidate Wesley So also had a good day, holding sixth seed GM Utut Adianto of Indonesia to a draw in 51 moves of the Bishop's opening.

So, who will represent the country in the World Junior Chess Championships in Armenia next month, and Adianto both had a rook, a knight and five pawns at endgame.

The biggest casualty for the 19-player Filipino delegation was IM Darwin Laylo, who absorbed his second loss.

Laylo, who held the distinction as one of the two highest-placed Filipinos after five rounds, fell to GM Negi Parimarjan (Elo 2529) of India.

GRANDMASTER Eugene Torre outplays Korean GM Alexey Kim in the sixth round.

GM Mark Paragua settled for a draw with upset-conscious Cebu sensation IM Steven Yap to join So and Laylo in a big group with 3.5 points.

Megaranto labored for nearly five hours before settling for a draw with fellow GM Zhao Jun of China to stay at the helm after five rounds.

Megaranto, the 20-year-old Indonesian champion who swept his first four matches, tried hard but failed to find a win against the tough-defending Chinese campaigner in their explosive queen and pawn ending.

Seven other matches in the first 10 boards, including those of GM Rogelio Antonio Jr against IM Enamul Hossain of Bangladesh and IM Darwin Laylo against GM Zhou Jianchao of China, ended in quick and lackluster draws as most of the players kept their positions going into the sixth round Monday.

Gopal made the biggest gain as he edged Li Chao of China to join second seed GM Zhang Pengxiang of China and Zhao Jun in a three-way tie for second to fourth places with four points.

Zhang, who topped the first Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Cup tournament at the Duty Free Fiesta Mall in Parañaque City last year, halved the point with fellow Chinese GM Wang Hao.

Antonio, Laylo and nine other foreign players also stayed within striking distance with 3.5 points.

Cebu sensation Kim Steven Yap also resumed his giant-killing run, beating IM Wang Rui of China this time to move up to a heavy, 18-man logjam with three points.

But luck, however, deserted IMs Oliver Dimakiling, Richard Bitoon and Barlo Nadera, NM Efren Bagamasbad and Voltaire Sevillano.

All five Filipinos dropped their matches against foreign rivals.

With a report from Roy Luarca

Tierro, Arcilla complete Davis Cup rout

KUWAIT CITY—PATRICK JOHN TIERRO and Johnny Arcilla overpowered separate rivals Sunday to complete a swashbuckling Filipino sweep of host Kuwait in the Asia-Oceania Zone Group II Davis Cup finals here.

Tierro thumped Kuwaiti No. 1 Ali Ghareeb, 6-3, 6-1, while Arcilla came back from a 1-4 deficit in the second set to beat Ahmad Rabeea Muhammad, 6-1, 7-5, in the reverse singles of the best-of-five tie to formalize the Philippines' entry into Group I of the zone next year

TIERRO

ARCILLA

The Philippines clinched the tie on Saturday when an ailing Cecil Mamiit and Eric Taino bested Mohammad Al-Ghareeb and Mohammad Siddiq, 6-7 (5), 6-0, 6-2, 2-6, 6-1, in the deciding doubles match.

Mamiit, who was rushed to a hospital Friday evening after contracting an allergy, started the Philippine juggernaut with a 6-3, 6-0, 6-0 rout of Muhamad in Friday's opening singles.

Taino then made it 2-0 by humbling Al-Ghareeb, 6-2, 5-3, 7-5.

The win sent the Philippines back to Group I, where it played last in 1997, in the company of Australia, Japan, Thailand, India, Kazakhstan and Taiwan.

"We must get ready for Group I early," the 31-year-old Mamiit said. "This will be the real competition."

Mamiit also said that his allergy has "gone away" and he is sure it was not caused by the "*tinolang manok*" (chicken ginger stew) provided for the team, on Mamiit's request, by members of the Filipino Tennis Association in Kuwait.

"I hope that in our future campaigns in other countries, the Filipinos there will give the same support the Filipinos here gave us," he said.

"Phase three of our program is now complete but this will not be the end," non-playing captain Martin Misa said, adding that the team will now turn its attention to the country's campaign in the coming Southeast Asian Games where the Nationals will defend their men's team title and Mamiit his singles and doubles crowns with Taino.

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Filipino dragon paddlers bag gold

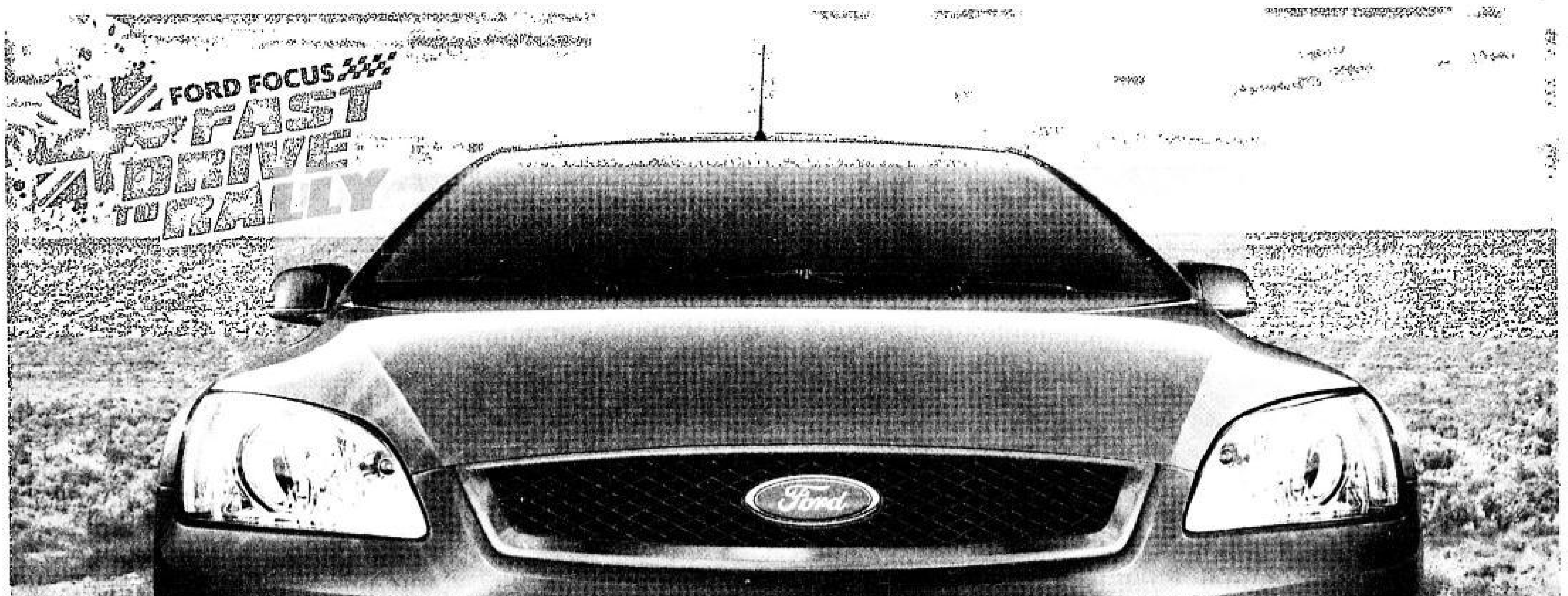
THE PHILIPPINE men's team bagged a gold medal and finished in the top three in three other events in the 8th IDBF World Dragon Boat Racing Championships which ended last weekend at the Sydney International Regatta Course.

The Philippines bested teams from Canada, the United States, Australia, Germany, Britain, Chile, Macau, Slovenia, and China in the Premier Open 200-meter race.

The Filipinos settled for silver in the Premier Open 500m event and bronze medals in the 1000m and 2000m races.

Sydney hosted the event for the first time at the sprawling international regatta center, which won acclaim when it hosted 825 athletes from 56 countries during the well-attended 2000 Olympic Games.

There were four main categories during the event —junior (12 to 18 years); Premier (18 to 40); Masters (40 to 50) and Grand Masters (50-plus).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Pacquiao pushes hard to be at his best for Barrera

By Recah Trinidad

LOS ANGELES—HE DID NOT SAY ANYthing upon arrival, but Manny Pacquiao made a clear statement—he's out to be at his best— when he burst from bed at the break of dawn Sunday and did an unscheduled 30-minute jog to the surprise of aides and handlers.

Pacquiao, in thick blue workout outfit, a woolen bonnet wrapping his head, braved the chill and reported to the nearby La Brea Park, towing with him team staffers whom he had roused by pulling off their blankets, without saying a word.

Unlike in previous major preparations when he was wont to issue pre-fight statements, stinging and otherwise, Pacquiao has been going through this championship regimen quietly.

"This definitely augurs well, this must be the calm before the storm," said the head of a Filipino television crew that flew in with Pacquiao from Manila Saturday evening here.

Without using a gauge, Barrera has easily outpaced Pacquiao in the speaking portion of their boiling rivalry.

While the Mexican boxing legend had called Pacquiao an ugly thorn on his side, adding he has been aching all these years to beat his Filipino rival he could actually taste it, the Pacman, who knocked out Barrera four years ago, has kept mum.

The speaking chore has obviously been left to trainer Freddie Roach, who on Sunday, taunted Barrera to come over and watch (spy) Pacquiao train.

Roach, who said they have nothing to hide, added he would make sure Barrera does not use extra thick bandage around his fists in the encounter in Las Vegas.

He returns to the Wild Card gym, which he left Aug. 10 to train in Cebu, Monday (Tuesday in Manila) for some more sparring, originally scheduled at eight rounds, but which promises to break past the day's limit.

"You can say he's just out to be even better than Manny Pacquiao himself," quipped Rolando Hiso whose two fighters (Glenn Gonzales and Jundy Maraon) he co-manages with Vice Gov. Manny Pinol of North Cotabato are listed in the Will to Win card on Oct. 6.

Kyla to sing national anthem in Pacman's bout

MANNY PACQUIAO HAS CHOSEN KYLA TO SING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL ANthem during his Oct. 6 rematch with Mexican icon Marco Antonio Barrera at the Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Melanie Hernandez Calumpad in real life, Kyla is the only female local artist to win at the annual MTV Video Music Awards. She edged out other outstanding singers who had expressed interest in singing the national anthem for the event, including Ara Mina, who has an unfinished movie with Pacquiao. ***Salven Lagumbay, Contributor***

UST sticking with Jarencio

Coach says he failed the Tigers

By Jasmine W. Payo

TEARS WELLED UP IN HIS EYES AT THE sound of the final buzzer.

And it turned out to be a gut-wrenching scene when coach Pido Jarencio, bent down, tried to compose himself as his assistants gave him consoling pats on the back.

The pained expression remained when Jarencio headed for the dugout as the UAAP season came to a painful close for the defending champion Santo Tomas Tigers.

"I wasn't able to prepare the team for a pressure game, for them to be tougher," he said after the Ateneo Blue Eagles wiped out last season's heartache with a 69-64 triumph over the Tigers in a knockout semifinal battle.

"These are kids. Whatever I teach them, that's what you see on court. *Ibig sabihin kulang ang turo ko* (It only means what I taught them wasn't enough)."

Although the Tigers came into the match seeded fourth, the rankings did not matter for this ragtag squad that pulled off a miraculous championship run last year.

"*Masama ang loob ko; hindi ko alam ang mangyayari sa akin next year, kung nandito pa ako* (I'm still hurt; I don't know if I'll still be with the team next year)," said Jarencio, whose contract officially ends this season.

Santo Tomas officials, though, quickly provided the well-loved Jarencio an assurance.

"The community is behind coach Pido," said UAAP board representative Felicitas Francisco of host league UST.

"We will be disappointed if he will be out of the team. We still want him to stay. What's a loss? Fourth is good enough."

Still, Jarencio continued to own up to the missed opportunity of back-to-back titles.

"It's all my fault, it's not the boys' fault," he said.

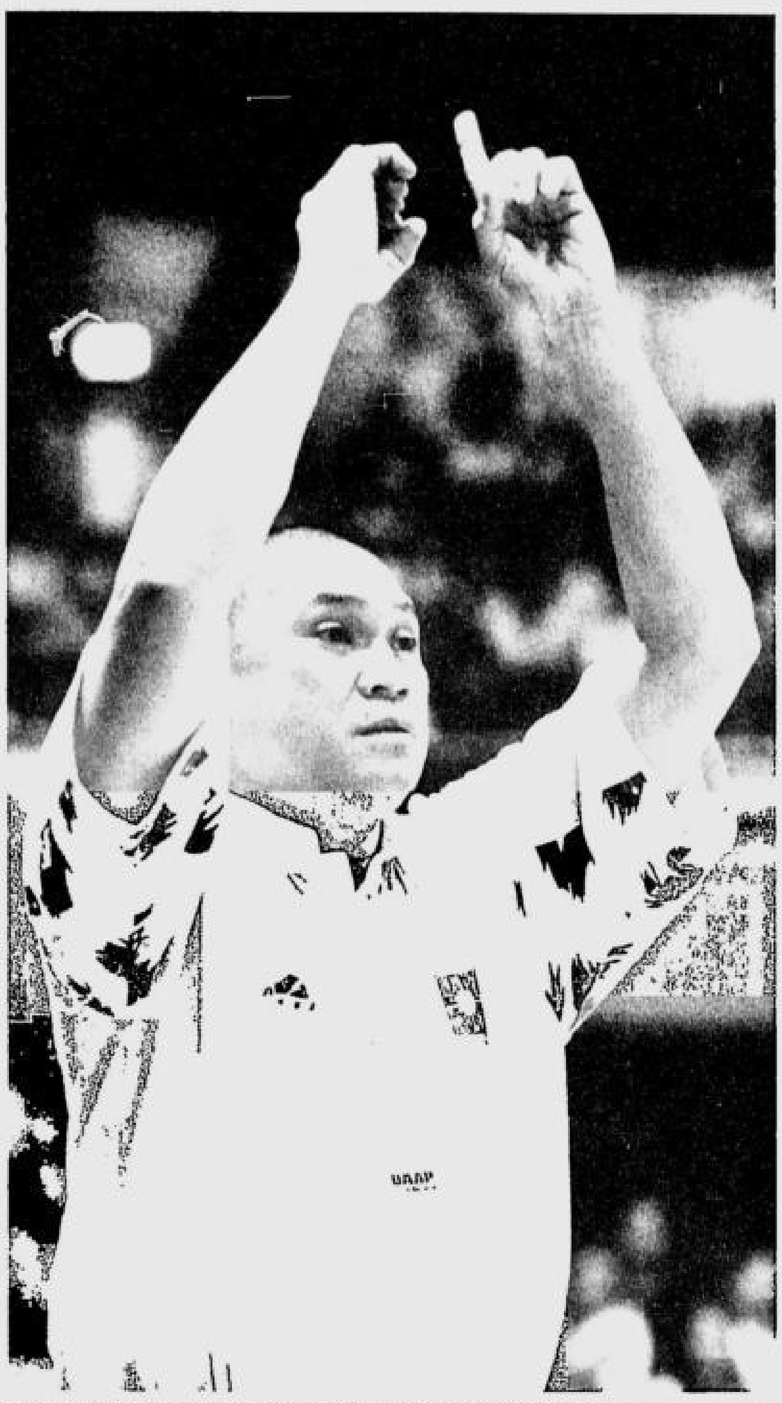
UAAP warns: Avoid hooliganism

CHEER IN GOOD CONDUCT.

This is the reminder to fans issued by UAAP host University of Santo Tomas yesterday following separate off-court incidents, including one involving commissioner Ed Cordero, during the heated Ateneo-UST semifinal battle last Sunday.

"Let these games be an avenue for further camaraderie... not for hooliganism," said league secretary-treasurer Felicitas Francisco.

Cordero and an Ateneo alumnus nearly came to blows at courtside but were separated by venue security after the Blue Eagles knocked out the defending champions, 69-64, last Sunday at the Araneta Coliseum. ***Jasmine W. Payo***



COACH Pido Jarencio enjoys the trust of UST officials. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

SPORTSWATCH

Tubid rolls perfect game

TUBID

JAYSON TUBID OF TBAM-PRIMA-Powerbowl scored a perfect game Sunday night on the second day of the qualifying in the 11th Sta. Lucia East Tenpin Bowling Association Open.

Tubid rolled his 300 in the Open Masters category and followed this up with 268, 225, and 222 for a 1015 series. He trails Apple Posadas in second place, with Arnold Lecaros of TBAM-Prima third with 936.

Top three in the Graded Masters category were Papio de Dios (955), Ver Nido (926), and Eric Umali (906), all of Sletba.

Ren Cremen of Sletba-Batang X paced the Associate Masters with 896, followed by Joey Mendoza of Sletba (882), and Gelo Mendoza, also of Sletba-Batang X (847).

Marissa Campita of the Pasig Bowling Association (PBA) led the Mixed Ladies division with 886, followed by Dyan Coronacion of TBAM-Prima-Powerbowl (774), and Patricia Tajo of Sletba-Batang X (760).

Lito Santarinala of Sletba was up in Senior Masters category with 964, three up on Tony Ayson of TBAM-Prima with Steve Robles of PBA third with 929.

Asean Chess Grand Prix, Masters series launched

LAPU-LAPU CITY—THE SECOND PRESIdent Gloria Macapagal Arroyo Cup will serve as the inaugural stop of the six-leg Asean Chess Grand Prix 2007-08 which was launched here Sunday night.

Prime movers of the project, which offers a Grand Prix fund of $25,000 were Fide honorary president Florencio Campomanes, Fide's Ignatius Leong of Singapore and Indonesian Grandmaster Utut Adianto.

Staking a total purse of $50,000, the 2nd GMA Cup is slated in November.

The series resumes with the NCFP president Prospero "Butch" Pichay Cup at the Celebrity Sports Plaza in Quezon City, followed by the Singapore Open on Dec. 16-22, the Philippine International Open in Subic in April, the Jakarta Open in May and Vietnam Open in September. ***Roy Luarca***

RP-HK seniors golf slated

THE PHILIPPINE GOLF FOUNDATION HAS arranged for a group of Hong Kong decision-makers to compete against some of the country's top senior golfers who are also business executives themselves.

The venue of the dual meet, slated Sept. 25 to 27, is Rancho Palos Verdes Golf and Country Club in Davao City.

The format of the event, dubbed as the RP-Hong Kong Seniors Team Challenge, is patterned after the Ryder Cup.

The RP team is made up of, among others, Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, Iggy Clavecilla, Francis Gaston, Tommy Manotoc, Ritchie Garcia and Rolly Viray.

Pasig cockfest kicks off today

MORE THAN 130 ENTRIES ARE VYING for the guaranteed prize of P300,000 in a "Fastest Win One-Cock Ulutan" starting at 8 a.m. today at Pasig Square Garden.

Entry fee is P1,650, with the first 20 and the last five winners getting P2,000 each as bonus, according to pit managers Toto Valentino and Charlie Cruz.

Meanwhile, the Rizal Gamecock Breeders Association, now with 52 members, presents another 4-stag derby on Friday at the same venue.

Superbikes: Buncio-Jao rivalry down to final race

JOLET Jao (right) slips past Glen Aguilar at the turn on the way to victory in the afternoon race.

ROSARIO, BATANGAS—IT'S DOWN TO THE final race for the Rider of the Year award after frontrunning Maico Buncio of Yamaha and defending champion Jolet Jao of Shell Advance split top honors recently in the penultimate leg of the Shell Advance Superbikes Series at the Batangas Racing Circuit here.

Buncio upstaged Jao in the morning, finishing the 10-lap Expert race 4.17 seconds clear to beef up his bid for the overall crown.

But Jao spoiled Buncio's bid to wrap up the crown with a big comeback in the afternoon race in driving rain.

Jao managed to trim down Buncio's lead to just 11 points but he needs to sweep the last two races while hoping that Buncio finishes fourth in both races to clinch the top plum.

Rod Chua took third place in the morning race while Glen Aguilar and David Pua checked in fourth and fifth, respectively.

Aguilar went on to sweep the Novice division over runner-up Gherry Chua, Mark Santiago and Carlo Villanueva while Barney Buncio and Simon Salenda split honors in the 400 cc.

Tac smashes nat'l center fire record

PADILLA

VETERAN INTERNAtionalist Nathaniel "TAc" Padilla carded 584 points to break the Philippine record in the center fire pistol event of the National Open shooting championships Sunday at the PSC range in Fort Bonifacio.

The 43-year-old Padilla erased his two-year-old mark of 583 as he topped Carolino Gonzales (559) and Robert Donalvo (551) en route to his third gold medal in the tourney organized by the Philippine National Shooting Association.

"I felt good during the competition," said Padilla, who had already qualified for the RP team competing in the Southeast Asian Games for the 15th time.

Padilla, general manager of the family-owned company that produces Spring Cooking Oil, ruled the 25-meter standard pistol event the day before. He tallied 546 to beat Donalvo (545) and Tito Carpio (518).

The other week, the son of former Olympian Mariano "Tom" Ong clinched his first gold by topping his favorite event—rapid fire pistol. Tac hit 569 to beat Donalvo (533) and Reuben Hermoso (472).

Other gold medalists: Carolino Gonzales, 50m free pistol and 10m air pistol; Rocky Pardilla and Francis Nicolle Medina, men's and women's 50m rifle prone, respectively; Susan Aguado, women's air pistol; Allan Azurin Jr. men's air pistol; Monique Lim Jr., women's air pistol; Dennis Hernandez, 50m rifle 3-position; Clarence Pukya, standard pistol, production class; Emerito Concepcion and Francine Lu, men's and women's 25-m air rifle.

Murder, Inc. 'plays big role for Letran'

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

DEFENDING CHAMPION SAN BEDA is the prohibitive favorite over Colegio San Juan de Letran in tomorrow's Game 2 of the NCAA senior basketball best-of-three title series at the Araneta Coliseum.

But the memory of Letran's fabulous Murder, Inc. team of 1950 is expected to work wonders for the Knights to square the count.

It is the first time that San Beda and Letran are meeting for the NCAA crown since 1950. The Knights won that epic encounter on Oct. 28, 1950 before a sellout crowd of 13,000 at the Rizal Coliseum.

* * *

According to the 83-year-old Julian Malonso, a former Spanish professor and PE director at Letran for 40 years, the Knights will be inspired by the memory of that 1950 finals.

Said the former POC president: "Letran, after posting nine straight victories, could have won the NCAA title outright by a sweep that year, but it was beaten by underdog San Beda in Game 10. Letran's key player, Lauro "The Fox" Mumar, was even suspected of throwing that game, but he eventually emerged unscathed as there was no single complaint against him in any court of law to prove that he was guilty of any wrongdoing."

* * *

The legendary sportscaster Willie Hernandez called the team Murder, Inc. because of its consistency in beating its rivals by a wide margin.

The members of the fabled team were team captain Mumar, Herminio Astorga, Louie Tabuena, the original exponent of the two-hand jumpshot; Cesar de Seguera, Jose "Rubio" Gutierrez, Jose Maria Iglesias, Ricardo Panis, Adriano Barata, who (like Astorga) were all products of Letran's junior competitions; Nilo Verona, Cristino Cui from Cebu, who could shoot accurately beyond the three-point area at a time when there was no three-point rule yet; Leodegario Pilones; Narciso Mañalac, Melquiades Manicsic, Senen Obiadas and Antonio Vidal.

The coach was Angel de Leon, star forward of Letran's 1938 NCAA champion team while the team manager was Prof. Nicanor Limjoco, younger brother of former Securities and Exchange Commission chair Angel Limjoco.

* * *

In winning the 1950 NCAA championship, Astorga topscored for Letran with 21 points. Other scorers were Iglesias, 17; Mumar, a 1948 London Olympian, eight; Seguera, who was called "*sitao*" by his teammates because he was tall and thin like a beanpole at 6-foot-3, seven; and Tabuena, who would become Games and Amusements Board chair and later airport general manager, six.

The 5-foot-10 1/2 Astorga likewise set a historical precedent in the NCAA: although he was still a junior high school student, he was allowed by the NCAA board to play in the varsity or senior (collegiate) level.

Born to poor parents, Astorga grew up on Leveriza Street, Malate. He developed a well-built physique by working as a stevedore. Simeon Toribio, the famous Olympic high jumper, encouraged him to take up sports. From Letran, he transferred to Far Eastern University where he donned the Tamaraws' green-and-gold colors for two years. He was also an outstanding student leader.

* * *

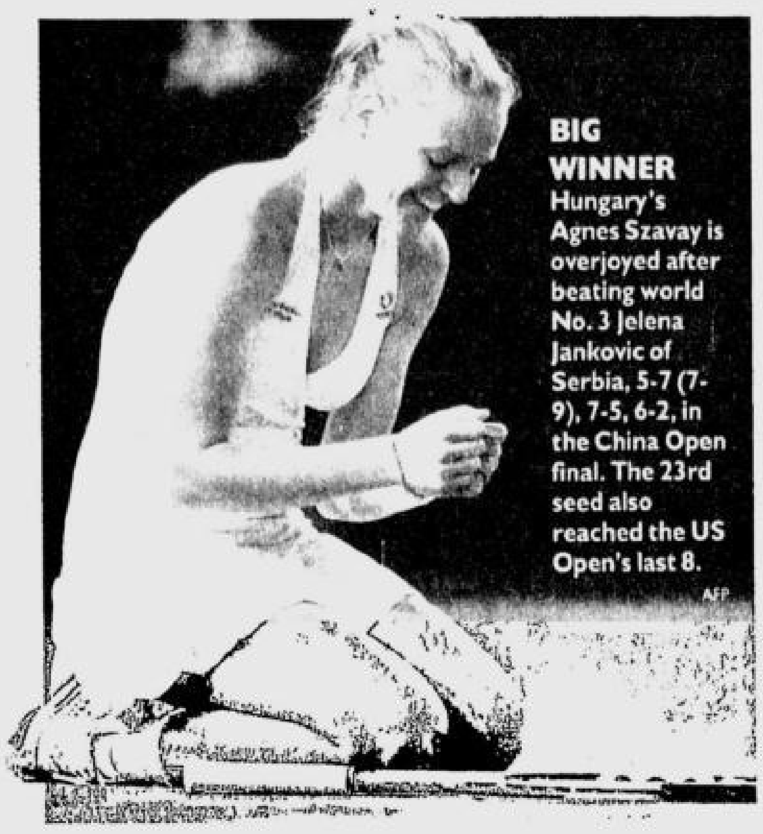
On his chances to tie the series tomorrow, Letran coach Louie Alas said: "I think we need to play a good 40 minutes instead of a good 36 minutes like we did last Wednesday."

Alas, who won for Letran the NCAA titles in 1998, 2003 and 2005, is aiming to score a repeat and become only the third coach in Letran's storied history since 1928 to win the NCAA crown as a non-alumnus, after the fabled Jacinto Ciria Cruz and Gabriel Fajardo. (More next week)

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Straight Express (7), Granil (4), Prying Eyes (5), Green Lane (2)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Quick Play (1), Passing Through (6), Strong Boy (7), T-Mac (3)
Race 3—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Firehouse/Cash McCall (1), Astimegoesby (7), Queen Of Gala (5), Heart Of The Wind (6), Make A Wish (3)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Xtreme Heat (2), Golden Song (4), Cristina (6), Market Leader (3)
Race 5—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Blondie Baj (5), Mister Cool (1), Terminator (7), Princess Ther Ther (4), Bold Water (8), Old Reliable (10)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Loaded (2), Aim For Gold (1), Ocean Dignity (8), All Class (3), JJ's Friend (5)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Western Dancer (1), Letshaveaparty (8), Summit Force (9), Madel Line (5), Bronte (2)
Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Dixie Dash (5), La Perouse (3), Real Tough (7), Valid Hazm (2), Reign Supreme (9), Spanish Drums (4)



BIG WINNER Hungary's Agnes Szavay is overjoyed after beating world No. 3 Jelena Jankovic of Serbia, 5-7 (7-9), 7-5, 6-2, in the China Open final. The 23rd seed also reached the US Open's last 8.

AFP

US Cuppers make finals

Czech Republic nips Federer's Swiss team

LONDON—ANDY RODDICK PUT THE UNITED STATES BACK INto the Davis Cup final against Russia, beating Jonas Bjorkman 6-2, 7-6 (3), 6-4, Sunday to give the Americans a 4-1 win over Sweden.

Roddick had little trouble against the veteran Swede, who was playing for 2002 Australian Open champion Thomas Johansson who pulled out with an illness.

Defending champion Russia won both reverse singles matches to beat Germany, 3-2, with Igor Andreev earning the decisive point by beating Philipp Kohlschreiber, 6-3, 3-6, 6-0, 6-3. Earlier, Mikhail Youzhny beat Davis Cup rookie Philipp Petzschner, 6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, in Moscow.

In the playoffs, Roger Federer won his second singles match of the weekend to put Switzerland even with the Czech Republic, but Radek Stepanek won the final match to give the Czechs a 3-2 win.

/Federer, who is making his 2007 Davis Cup debut in Prague, beat Tomas Berdych, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (10), 6-3. Stepankek then defeated Stanislas Wawrinka, 7-6 (3), 6-3, 7-6 (4).

Novak Djokovic, the U.S. Open finalist, helped Serbia reach the World Group for the first time by beating Chris Guccione, 6-3, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (5), to lead the hosts to a 4-1 win over 28-time champion Australia.

Roddick used his big serve on the Scandinavium arena's fast indoor carpet in Goteborg, not allowing Bjorkman even one break in the match.

"If you would have told me I could get through three sets with Jonas without getting broken I would have questioned your sanity a little bit," said Roddick, who also won his opening singles match.

Bjorkman had his chances in the second set, however, earning two break points at 2-2. But the Swede, at 35 the oldest player in the series, returned long at 15-40 and then Roddick aced him to get to deuce. Roddick held with another ace and a forehand winner.

The 31-time champion Americans will be back in a Davis Cup final since losing to Spain in 2004. *AP*

OTHER RESULTS: Austria 4, Brazil 1; Britain 4, Croatia 1; Israel 3, Chile 2; Japan 2, Romania 3; Slovakia 2, South Korea 3; and Peru 4, Belarus 1.

Flesch seizes Turning Stone by two strokes

FLESCH AP

VERONA, NEW York—Steve Flesch carded a one-over 73 on Sunday to capture his second PGA Tour title of the season with a triumph in the Turning Stone Resort Championship.

At 18-under 270, Flesch finished two shots clear of fellow American Michael Allen, who closed with a 68.

Australian John Senden carded a 67 and John Mallinger a 68 to finish tied for third at 15-under 273.

Flesch, who won the Reno-Tahoe Open earlier this season, picked up $1.08 million for the win and will likely have secured himself a spot in the top 30 on the money list and a place in both The Masters and US Open, as well as the World Golf Championships-CA Championship. *AFP*

Cleveland, LA Angels seal AL titles

LOS ANGELES—THE CLEVELAND INdians and Los Angeles Angels sealed American League division titles with solid pitching performances on Sunday.

Jake Westbrook struck out nine in seven innings and Grady Sizemore had four hits as the Indians grabbed the Central Division pennant with a 6-2 win over the Oakland Athletics.

John Lackey won his 18th game as the Angels wrapped up the West Division championship by topping the Seattle Mariners 7-4.

The Central Division title was the first in six years for Cleveland.

"We just wanted to get it done today for Cleveland and the fans here," Westbrook (6-9) told reporters. "I was throwing the ball hard and locating a lot of my pitches. It was fun to pitch."

Sizemore went 4-for-4 and drove in two runs. His fourth-inning triple put the Indians ahead 6-0.

"I wanted to set the tone early," Sizemore said. *Reuters*

Westwood enters £10 million club

COLDFIELD, ENGLAND—LEE WESTWOOD produced a brilliant final round of 65 to win the British Masters and become only the seventh player to reach £10 million ($20 million) prize money on the European Tour.

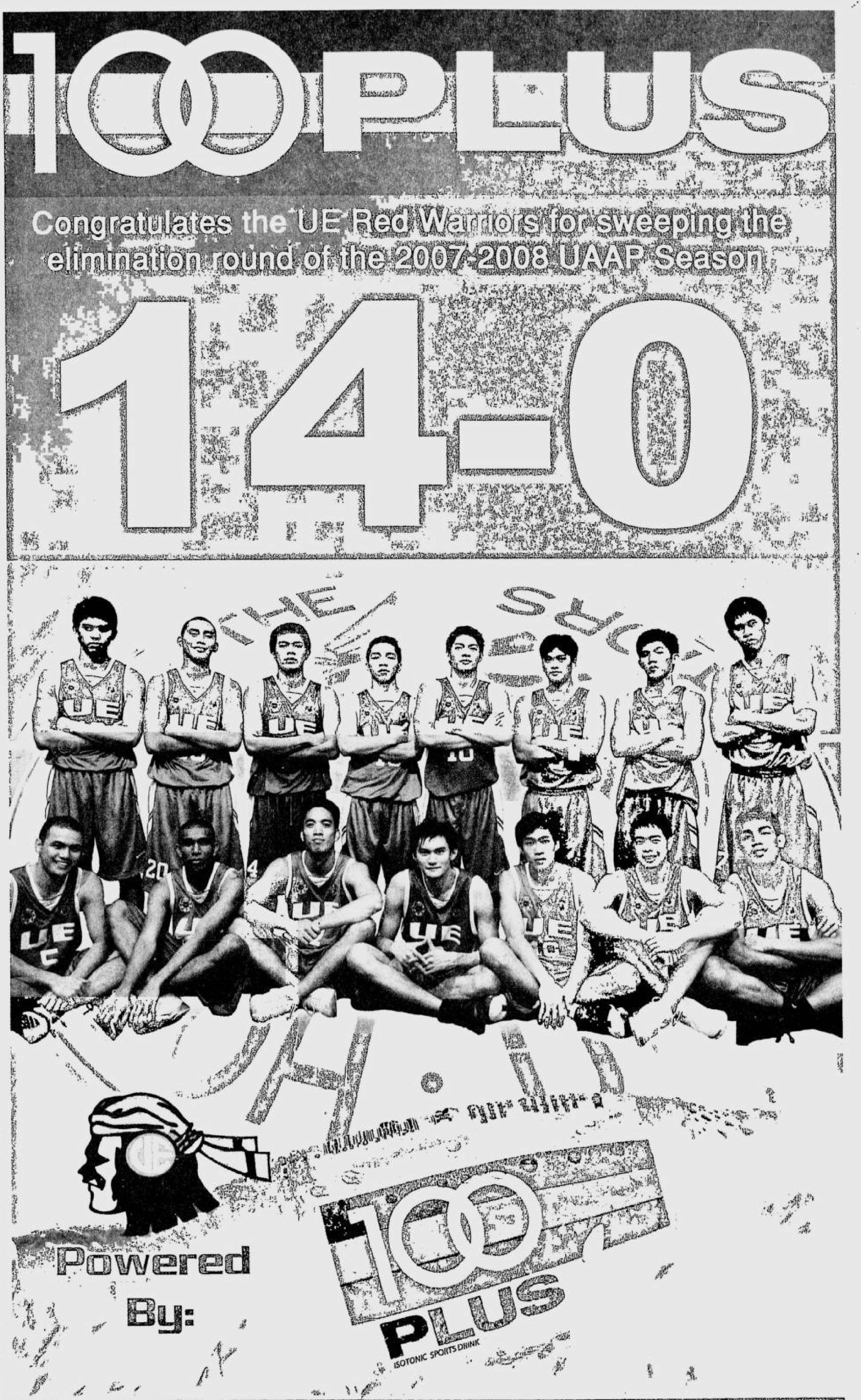
Westwood, 34, was in dazzling form at The Belfry on Sunday as his seven under par round gave him a five-stroke victory over Ian Poulter.

The former European number one started the day two strokes off the lead but his round featured a 40-foot birdie putt on the 16th and then a 30-footer for eagle at the 564-yard 17th.

It was Westwood's 29th career title and he admitted it was one of his best rounds.

"I've driven it as good as I ever have and holed the putts when I needed to," he said.

Westwood joins Colin Montgomerie, Ernie Els, Retief Goosen, Padraig Harrington, Darren Clarke and Bernhard Langer as a member of the circuit through the £10-million pound barrier. *AFP*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Congratulates the UE Red Warriors for sweeping the elimination round of the 2007-2008 UAAP Season
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Tipon, Basadre gain semis in Czech meet

ASIAN GAMES GOLD MEDALIST JOAN TIPON WHIPPED HIS SPANISH rival to join Genebert Basadre in the semifinals of the Ostrava Grand Prix boxing competition in the Czech Republic Saturday.

Tipon, winner of the bantamweight gold in the Doha Asian Games, battered Spaniard Francisco Castillejo with a referee-stopped-contest-outscored (RSC-O) verdict in the quarterfinals of the slugfest featuring leading boxers from 20 countries.

Earlier, lightweight Basadre entered the medal round by eliminating Alejandro Rodriguez of Spain, 23-19, and will meet top favorite Toth Laszlo of Hungary in the semifinals.

Tipon guns for a finals seat against Hungarian Norbert Kalutzca, who outpunched Eda Khacatrian of host Czech Republic, 37-27.

Due to the quirk of the draw and to lack of entries, light flyweight Harry Tañamor has secured a silver medal for the RP-Smart boxing team without throwing a punch.

Tañamor will go for the gold medal against Russian Vadim Idigeshov, a 29-14 winner over Kelvin de la Nieve of Spain, in the finals.

Flyweight Violito Payla, who also won a gold in the Doha Asiad, also benefited from the lack of entries as he made it to the finals after a 19-8 win over the Czech Republic's Faber Frantisek, 19-8, in his first bout.

To snare the gold, Payla must hurdle Evgeny Ermakov of Russia, who prevailed by RSC-O over Jose Padilla of Spain in the semifinals.

"The Ostrava GP is part of the preparation of the Smart-RP Boxing team to the coming World Boxing Championships next month in Chicago," said Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines president Manny T. Lopez.

Three other members of the national team, also backed by Pacific Heights and the Philippine Sports Commission, bowed to superior rivals.

Featherweight Charly Suarez started his campaign by besting Italian Alessio de Savino but lost a closely fought match against Antonin Lazok of the Czech Republic, 23-25.

Light welterweight Delfin Boholst and welterweight Willie Lopez lost their first-round matches to Zdenek Chaldek of the Czech Republic, 13-28, and Italy's Michael Cirillo, 17-22, respectively.

TIPON: One of four RP pugs assured of a medal.

Generals, Doves boost records for Ucaa Final 4

THE DEFENDING CHAMPION EMILIO Aguinaldo College Generals and the St. Francis of Assisi College Doves waylaid separate foes yesterday and boosted their bids in the Final Four of the sixth Universities and Colleges Athletic Association (Ucaa) men's basketball tournament at the EAC Sports Complex.

The Generals banked on the free thows of Argel Mendoza and John Valderama in the last nine seconds to nip the La Salle-Dasmariñas Patriots, 62-59, for their ninth win in 13 games.

James Castanarez and Leomer Losentes sparked the Doves' breakaway with triples in the third period on the way to an 83-71 whipping of the PSBA Jaguars.

The Generals and the Doves are locked in second spot and their places in the Final Four will be known once the Las Piñas College Blue Lions are through with their games against the Acsat Lightnings and the UCN Dragons.

The Lightnings (9-3) lead the field.

The Jaguars (7-6) and the Blue Lions (7-5) are still disputing the last Final Four berth.

PERFORMANCE, SAFETY, STYLE

SUZUKI GRAND VITARA 2.7 V6

A combination of refined on-road handling and rugged off-road performance
In 2006, the Suzuki Grand Vitara was reborn, ushering in a new generation of Suzuki vehicles built to satisfy the needs of people who live active lifestyles. Its complete transformation leads the Suzuki brand to new levels of refinement and style at a value-packed price. For 2007, the Suzuki Grand Vitara is sure to impress on challenging off road trails and drives around town, with a powerful 2.7 liter, V6 engine, advanced chassis design and available four-wheel drive, an extensive list of safety features and interior amenities and sleek styling – inside and out.

Standard DOHC V6 Power and Available Four-Wheel-Drive Traction
The standard 2.7 liter, V6, 24 valve DOHC engine delivers 185 horsepower at 6,000 rpm and 250 Nm at 4,500 rpm. The engine gives the Grand Vitara a tow rating of 3,000 pounds – enough to haul light recreational boats, personal watercraft or motorcycles – ideally, Suzuki motorcycles. The Grand Vitara is fitted with an electronically controlled five-speed automatic transmission. Very capable off-road, it is equipped with an excellent approach, break-over and departure angles, and 7.9 inches of ground clearance, (7.4 inches for rear-wheel-drive models).

The Grand Vitara also offers a sophisticated available Four-Mode full-time four-wheel-drive system with two-speed transfer case. On the road, drivers have the security of full-time four-wheel drive, and when traveling off-road, drivers can use an interior-mounted switch to engage the center differential lock. If the going is really slow, the driver can select the Low (4L Lock) mode for low-speed power and traction.

Advanced Structural Engineering and Chassis Design
All Grand Vitara models feature a new, lightweight yet rigid unibody construction enhanced with a built-in ladder frame to offer the best of both worlds – a refined on-road ride and the rugged off-road performance expected from Suzuki SUVs. The structure is teamed with four-wheel independent suspension – MacPherson struts in front and a multi-link design in the rear – to provide precise handling both on-road and off-road. The Grand Vitara also features large, vented front disc brakes and rear drum brakes and power assisted rack-and-pinion steering.

Uncompromised Safety Features
Every Grand Vitara model is fitted with active safety features, including ABS with electronic brake force distribution (EBD) and Electronic Stability Program (ESP)1, including traction control. The ESP uses a variety of electronic sensors to measure vehicle speed, steering wheel angle and yaw. This information is sent to a central controller that can intervene as needed. Under certain conditions, such as when unintended oversteer or understeer is detected, the system can apply individual brakes and reduce engine torque to help the driver maintain the proper cornering line. Together with the traction control system, the ESP helps ensure vehicle stability and optimum cornering, handling in take off or acceleration, emergency maneuvers, or driving on slippery road surfaces.

The Grand Vitara also features six airbags as standard equipment – driver and front passenger seat-mounted side-impact airbags supplemental restraint system (SRS), advanced dual-stage front airbag SRS, advanced weight-sensing front passenger airbag SRS and front and rear side-curtain airbags.

The three-point driver and front passenger seat belts feature shoulder height adjustment. In the rear seat, each passenger is provided with a three-point seat belt system and a headrest. The rear child-seat LATCH system (Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children), along with rear-door child safety locks, are designed to help protect young rear-seat passengers. The innovative stamped steel unibody with built-in ladder frame provides comprehensive protection, with features such as a reinforced cabin with the added safety of a head-impact protection padding and front and rear side-impact door beams designed to help maintain the integrity of the passenger compartment.

In the event of a collision with a pedestrian, the hood is designed to absorb some of the impact and help protect against serious head injuries. The front end and the bumper use energy-absorbing materials to help reduce the possibility of serious leg injuries.

Sleek Sophistication Meets Versatile Functionality
The Grand Vitara offers ample interior space for driver and passenger comfort and 24.4 cubic feet of storage space with the seats up or 68.9 cubic feet of storage space when the convenient 60/40 split seatbacks are folded forward. With its carefully engineered control layout and close attention to materials and fit-and-finish, the interior of the Suzuki Grand Vitara is functional and attractive. The list of standard features includes air conditioning with automatic climate control and micron air-filtration system, cruise control, digital clock with outside temperature, fuel consumption indicator and adjustable center armrest with internal storage. The Grand Vitara also features a standard AM/FM/CD/MP3 -capable audio system, and steering-wheel-mounted audio controls, and an available six-disc in-dash CD changer with six speakers, including two tweeters and a subwoofer.

For more information, visit www.suzuki.com.ph.

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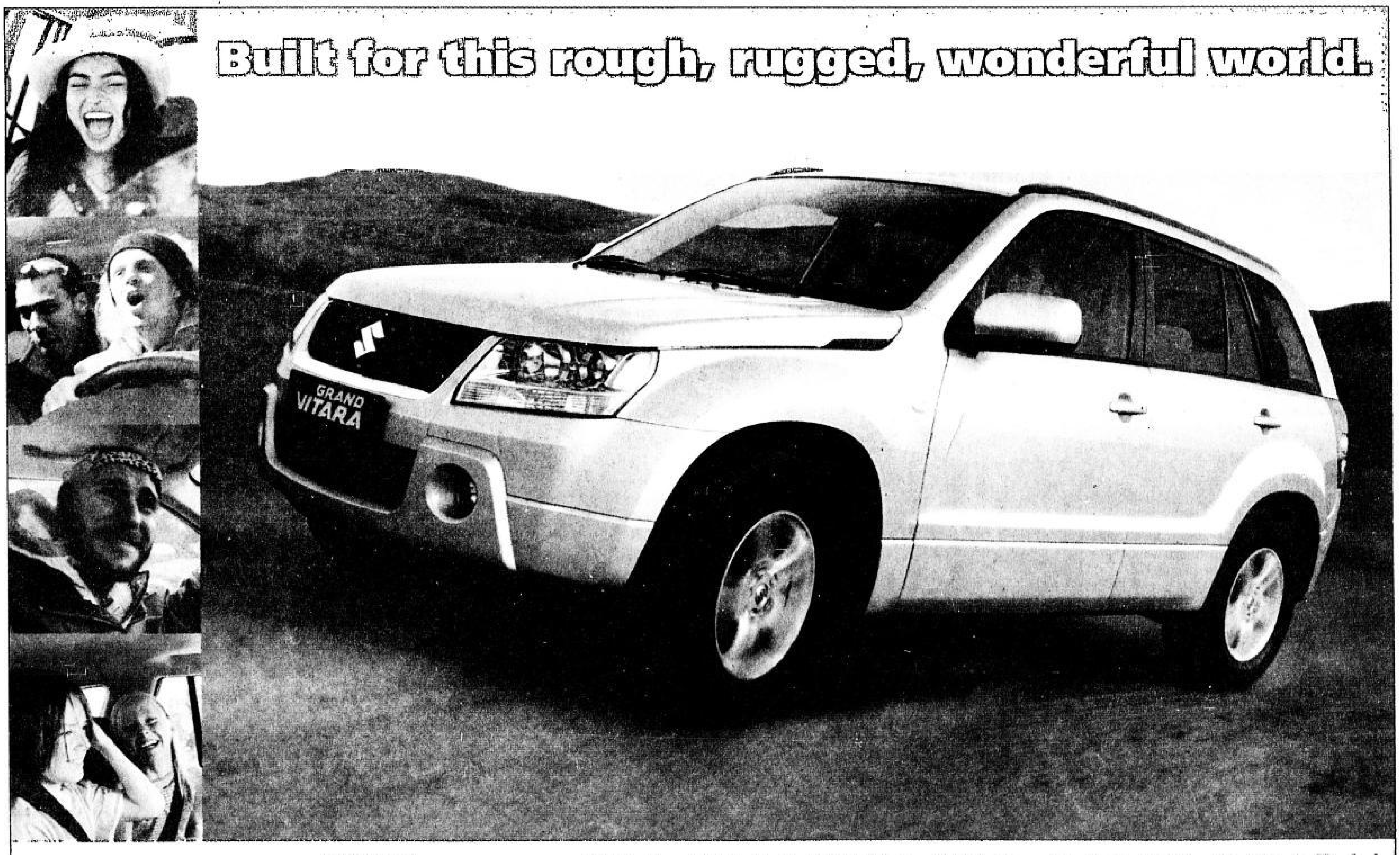

SUZUKI
GRAND VITARA

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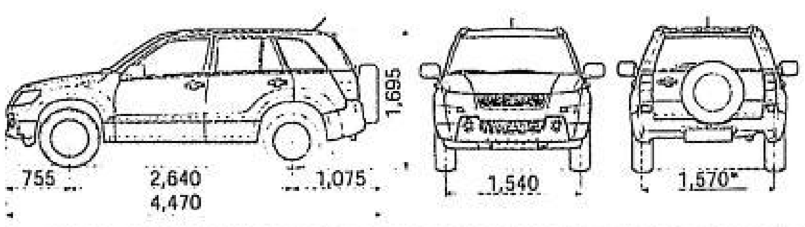

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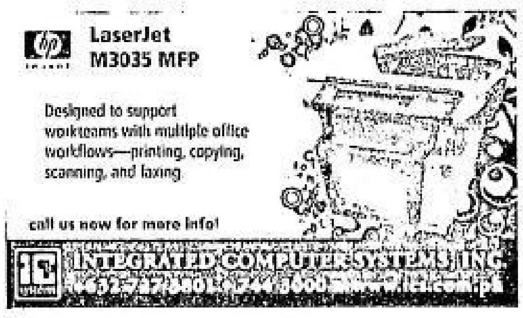
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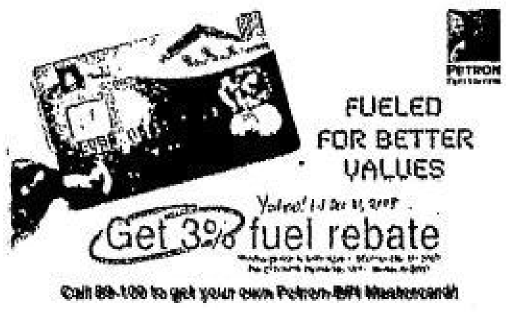
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BREAKTIME

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PNOC-EDC attracts 24 potential bidders /B7

91-day T-bill fetches rate of 3.759%

Treasury officials accept offers after two failed bids

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BELLWETHER 91-DAY TREASURY BILL rate yesterday shed a basis point to 3.759 percent, ending its consecutive rise since the onset of the US subprime market concerns.

Appetite for the three-month government securities was relatively strong, as tenders reached P2.15 billion, higher than the original debt offering of P1 billion.

But the Bureau of the Treasury's auction committee accepted only P960 million worth of bids. The BTr said the decision to make a partial award of the bids was to ensure that yields on the short-term debt instruments was aligned with those in the secondary market.

Had the BTr accepted P1 billion worth of bids to raise in full the scheduled borrowing, then the rate for the 91-day bills would have reached 3.763 percent.

This would still have been lower than the previously recorded rate of 3.769 percent. But Tan said the BTr wanted a full basis-point drop in the rate.

The 182-day bill likewise fetched a lower rate at 4.832 percent. This marked a similar one-basis-point drop from its previous rate, which stood at 4.842 percent.

Bids for the six-month government securities reached P3.975 billion, higher than the debt offering of P1.5 billion. The BTr accepted P1.5 billion worth of bids.

Tan said the drop in the 91- and 182-day T-bill rates was partly due to market expectations that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas might slash its borrowing and lending rates after the US Federal Reserve cut its own policy rate.

The BSP's overnight borrowing rate stands at 6 percent, while its lending rate is at 8 percent.

The Fed last week cut its policy rate to 4.75 percent from 5.25 percent, in an effort to boost the sluggish US economy.

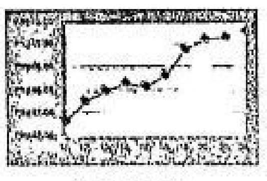
A drop in US interest rates has given local monetary officials enough elbow room to cut the BSP's policy rates and further pump-prime the Philippine economy.

Investors usually seek higher interests from debt instruments issued by perceivably risky borrowers, like the

91-DAY/ B3

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES


SEPTEMBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P45.155 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 24, 2007

STOCK MARKET

Shares close 0.3% higher

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX
SEPTEMBER

(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARE PRICES YESTERday closed 0.3 percent higher in listless trading led by small company and mining shares, dealers said.

The composite index finished up 10.72 points to 3,434.45 after trading in a narrow range of 3,423.73 and 3,441.34.

Gainers led losers 66 to 45, while 54 stocks were unchanged. Volume traded was 5.9 billion shares worth P3.3 billion ($73 million).

Index leader Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. added 5.00 pesos to P2,805.

Surging gold prices helped mining shares to post some of the day's biggest gains. Philex Mining, the nation's biggest miner by market value gained 20 centavos to P7.60.

San Miguel Corp. A shares shed one peso at P60, while the B shares were unchanged at P61. *AFP*

US subprime crisis seen to worsen, heighten risks

By Doris C. Dumlao

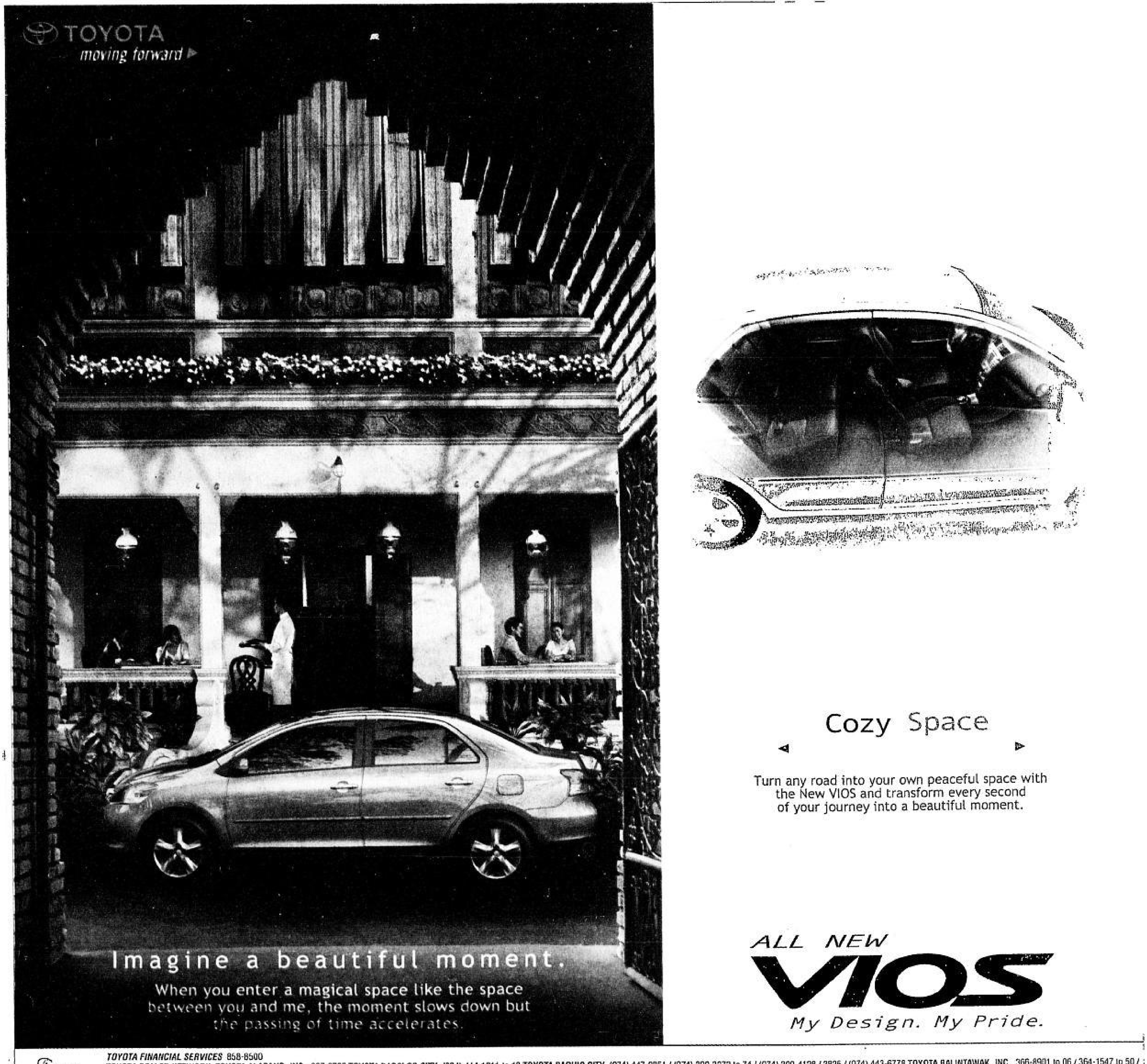
THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY Fund has warned that the US subprime mortgage crisis could drag on, at least through 2008, and possibly expose emerging markets to greater risks, as credit and market discipline in global markets continue to weaken.

In its Global Financial Stability Report, the IMF said financial risks had increased and underlying conditions worsened since its last assessment in April, when it discussed the rising deterioration in US subprime mortgage credit, or loans given to borrowers with imperfect credit history and little equity.

"The period ahead may be difficult, as bouts of turbulence are likely to recur and the adjustment process will take some time," the IMF said in the new report. "Uncertainty about the final size of losses, and when and where they will be revealed, will likely continue to keep market sentiment and conditions unsettled in the near term."

The current crisis is largely attributed to lax credit underwriting standards, as well as unfavorable employment trends in the world's

US SUBPRIME/ B7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Greenspan tells all

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

I DECIDED NOT TO WRITE last week because my article would have coincided with the day Bernanke announced his decision. That seemed to be rather ill timed so I decided to wait and see what he would do. To be honest, I thought he would cut interest rates by a quarter-point and await the next job-creation figures because they are always revised, up or down, by as much as 60,000. So last month's figures might be up 50,000 or down 50,000. In the first case, the cut would not have been justified; in the second case, there would have been room for another half-point by the end of the year.

However, I feel sure that President Bush pressured him, as 2008 is election year and the last thing the President needs is a recession to add to his unpopularity over the war in Iraq.

In Greenspan's book, of which I have read numerous extracts, he said he got on well with Ford, Nixon and Clinton but not with Bush. The President was uncaring about the eventual demise of Medicare 10 years hence and would not listen to Greenspan's plea to increase contributions, reduce benefits to those still working or extend the retirement age.

Bush was more preoccupied with Iran's oil. This bombshell pleased the Democrats no end and depressed the Republicans, who are set for a major defeat.

Of course, the stock market was delighted, as few economists expected a half-point cut, and the Dow has risen to an all-time peak. Greenspan admitted he had been lucky because he had been working in a 'disinflationary' era whereas the Fed is now facing the possibility of inflation next year. Central banks all over the world have been raising rates, often several times, and China has raised its bank rate for the fifth time this year, as well as increasing bank deposits to take liquidity out of the system. Given this background, Bernanke's decision was not an easy one especially as the core inflation measurement excludes food and oil, now at a record level.

There is no doubt that the housing market will continue declining for at least a year, both in terms of new starts and prices. People who bought homes with little or no deposit and adjustable mortgage rate were either ignorant of the danger or were just gambling that they could sell their homes at a profit. It is not the job of the US Fed to bail out the speculators but it is hard to distinguish between them so the President wants to spend a vast sum of money to bail everybody out. In practice, this is just a political play and many foolish people will lose their homes.

Greenspan admitted that he did not foresee this bubble but said it was a product of euphoria and was not visible until the bubble burst. We had the same thing with the Internet bubble when stocks were selling on Price/Earnings ratios of 500. At that time, I was warning clients not to touch Nasdaq stocks as they were grossly overvalued. Eventually, many went bankrupt while survivors fell by as much as 95 percent and I am talking about well-known companies. I also warned investors back in 1993, when the Nikkei was at 39,500. NTT had a rights issue on a price earnings ratio of 240. I said this was crazy and told everyone to sell the Japanese market. It eventually dropped 80 percent and has still not recovered.

The latest consumer prices have turned negative, which is a bad sign and there is no doubt that the US economy will slow down. I don't think it will go into recession but the growth rate in the election year might well be between 1 percent and 2 percent. This will have some effect on Asian countries, particularly exporters, but should not affect the Philippines unduly as we mainly reassemble. A reduction in US interest rates will strengthen Asian currencies, including the peso, and push up gold as a hedge. Opec is hedging against the ever-declining dollar by buying euros and gold as well. Although gold looks high, it is still well below its 1980 high of $850 and allowing for 27 years of inflation, gold has a long way to catch up.

The American dividend season has started. I expect most companies other than banks will continue to grow. Any slowdown is unlikely to manifest itself before the fourth quarter and more likely in the first quarter of 2008. Our dividend season starts after that of the US ends because we are much slower in preparing our accounts.

The government has been advertising in all the newspapers that the GDP in the second quarter was 7.5 percent. This included massive expenditure on infrastructure, food, drinks and vote buying. It will not be repeated in the third or fourth quarter or next year. As for the BIR exceeding its tax target for August, the percentage was tiny and in the first seven months, it is still way behind its goal. Do not get carried away by statistics, they can be presented to mean almost anything. I remember years ago in London when birth control pills were controversial, a spokesperson claimed that a young woman had taken the pill and was dead 15 minutes later. He omitted to mention that she was killed by a drunken driver.

The risk factor on the PHISIX is very high and although the index is likely to rise again on Monday, investors should avoid getting carried away and chasing the market. There should be a correction fairly soon. Seasonally, October to December is the best time to invest so perhaps we will have a sideways trend until the window-dressing period on Dec. 31. PX has been a good performer, based on its excellent monthly exports of copper and gold at favorable prices.

Amgen has discovered an important drug to cure amnesia. Unfortunately, I forgot it.

Greenspan's book, The Age of Turbulence, is outselling Harry Potter, so he is making a fortune. My book will be out shortly, The Age of Impotence.

I said to my wife that if ever I was kept alive by a machine and sustained by bottles of nutrients, I would rather die. So she turned off the TV and threw away my beer.

nathan.ronald@gmail.com

CURRENCIES

September 24, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.709572	1.000000	45.4330
Japan	Yen	0.006153	0.008671	0.3939
United Kingdom	Pound	1.433549	2.020300	91.7883
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.091160	0.128472	5.8369
Switzerland	Franc	0.605489	0.853315	38.7687
Canada	Dollar	0.709005	0.999201	45.3967
Singapore	Dollar	0.471414	0.664364	30.1840
Australia	Dollar	0.613498	0.864603	39.2815
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.882354	2.652801	120.5247
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.189923	0.267659	12.1606
Brunei	Dollar	0.469853	0.662164	30.0841
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000077	0.000109	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.022384	0.031546	1.4332
UAE	Dirham	0.193349	0.272487	12.3799
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.409300	64.0287
Korea	Won	0.000771	0.001086	0.0493
China	Yuan**	0.094564	0.133269	6.0548
Denmark	Kroner	0.134211	0.189143	8.5933
India	Rupee	0.017810	0.025100	1.1404
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.206121	0.290487	13.1977
New Zealand	Dollar	0.526428	0.741895	33.7065
Sweden	Kroner	0.108887	0.153454	6.9719
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.021535	0.030349	1.3788

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Sept. 21, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rate as of Sept. 21, 2007

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Eton launches Makati condo

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

ETON PROPERTIES PHILS. INC., THE property arm of the Lucio Tan Group, yesterday launched its second condominium project in Greenbelt, Makati City, which targets professionals working in the central business district.

Eton president Danilo Ignacio said during the launch yesterday that the 34-story Eton Parkview Residences is on Gamboa Street behind the Asian Institute of Management.

The project will offer 230 all-loft units. A one-bedroom unit ranges from 40 to 57 square meters, and will sell at about P3.6 million.

A two-bedroom unit on the other hand, which is about 70 sqm, costs about P6.5 million.

Parkview follows Eton's first project in Greenbelt - The Greenbelt Residences - which as of July is 90-percent sold.

Eton Parkview is in front of two parks—the Washington Sycip Park and Legaspi Park and is close to the Greenbelt Mall. It is a foreclosed asset of Allied Bank. The turnover for completed Eton Parkview units is scheduled for December 2011.

Eton also unveiled yesterday a partnership with sister company Allied Banking Corp. to offer home mortgage financing rates at 5.5 percent to 8.38 percent for a fixed period, much lower than the industry average of 8.5 percent lowest rate.

Allied Bank president Reynaldo Maclang said the housing loan will offer 5-,10-, 15- and 20-year terms to interested home buyers at fixed interest rates.

Initially, the home loan financing will be offered exclusively to buyers of Eton's twin tower residential project in Ortigas dubbed the Eton Emerald Lofts

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 24, 2007)

52-WKS HIGH	52-WKS LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	5.4	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc	9	9	9	9	3,000
73	38.5	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc	58	58	56	56.5	1,314,800
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	67	67.5	66.5	66.5	1,213,100
935	630	China Banking Corp	835	840	830	835	5,040
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23	23	23	23	300
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc.	0.41	0.42	0.41	0.42	3,440,000
75.5	39.5	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company	53	53.5	52.5	52.5	7,017,600
65.5	33	Philippine National Bank	47	47	46.5	47	423,500
68	41	Philippine Savings Bank	63	63	63	63	500
39.57	15	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	22.25	22.5	22.25	22.25	3,039,800
90	49.5	Security Bank Corp.	68	68	68	68	156,000
66	42.53	Union Bank of the Philippines	56	56.5	56	56	111,000
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.76	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	4,000
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.94	1.94	1.84	1.92	7,837,000
16.25	3.35	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	10.75	10.75	10.5	10.5	97,300
1.6	0.4	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	0.86	0.87	0.86	0.86	1,570,000
42	29	First Metro Investment Corp.	42	42	42	42	5,000
1,805.00	1,560.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	30
5	2.95	Nat'l Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.5	3.55	3.45	3.5	1,189,000
3.1	1.02	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	11,000
1,005.00	230	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc.	750	750	750	750	340
2,335.00	1,945.00	Sun Life Financial Inc	2,280.00	2,280.00	2,280.00	2,280.00	110
1.94	1.3	Vantage Corp	1.52	1.58	1.52	1.58	1,412,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp.	5	5	4.95	5	663,000
70	47.5	First Gen Corp.	64.5	64.5	63.5	63.5	289,000
92	49	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	75.5	76	74.5	74.5	315,500
15	8.8	Manila Water Company Inc.	14	14	13.5	13.75	2,958,400
105.45	17.27	Manila Electric Company	83	84	83	83	669,200
7	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.4	7,934,000
6.5	3.9	Petron Corp.	5.5	5.8	5.5	5.7	5,369,000
14.75	6.6	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	6.9	7.3	6.9	7.1	277,000
1.9	0.96	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp	1.22	1.28	1.22	1.24	2,168,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	3.1	Alaska Milk Corp	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.2	45,000
2.95	1.66	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	1.7	1.74	1.7	1.74	1,357,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	50,000
61	34	Jollibee Foods Corp.	52	53.5	52	53	729,100
25	20	Liberty Flour Mills Inc.	24	24	24	24	13,600
0.98	0.42	RFM Corp.	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	130,000
3.85	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.5	2.55	2.48	2.55	93,000
80	59	San Miguel Corp. A	60.5	60.5	60	60	75,900
88	59.5	San Miguel Corp. B	60.5	63	60.5	61	165,800
0.66	0.22	Swift Foods Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	20,000
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp	16.5	16.5	16.25	16.25	6,514,900
0.55	0.26	Vitarich Corp	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.38	150,000
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	1.73	EEI Corp.	4.2	4.25	4.15	4.15	1,974,000
21.5	6	Federal Chemicals Inc.	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	7,000
9.2	4.9	Holcim Philippines Inc.	7.7	8	7.7	8	1,892,000
7	1.38	Republic Cement Corp.	3.85	4	3.85	4	29,000
2	0.28	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc	1.12	1.2	1.12	1.16	26,529,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.75	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4	4.1	4	4.1	1,048,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.75	0.125	Picop Resources Inc	0.41	0.41	0.39	0.39	31,750,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	1.98	A. Soriano Corp.	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	300,000
0.17	0.025	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	7,940,000
1.28	0.22	APC Group Inc.	0.77	0.82	0.77	0.79	25,530,000
0.018	0.007	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. A	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.011	15,800,000
0.019	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. B	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.013	44,000,000
9.7	5.1	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	4,875,000
0.021	0.0075	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.015	171,500,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5	5.1	4.95	4.95	4,623,000
1.38	0.51	Alsons Cons. Resources Inc.	0.85	0.9	0.85	0.9	920,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.22	2.28	2.22	2.24	1,129,000
590	375	Ayala Corp.	510	510	505	510	191,720
14.5	7.22	Bacnotan Cons. Industries Inc.	13	13.5	13	13.5	24,600
5.8	1.22	Benpres Holdings Corp.	4.05	4.1	4.05	4.1	5,725,000
10.25	3.7	DMCI Holdings Inc.	8.4	8.6	8.4	8.6	1,970,000
6.9	1.06	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	3.85	3.95	3.85	3.95	3,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	170,000
3.55	1.26	House of Investments Inc.	1.88	1.88	1.86	1.86	87,000
14.5	5.9	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	508,000
5.9	0.61	Jolliville Holdings Corp.	1.66	1.8	1.66	1.78	433,000
11.5	1.1	Multitech Investments Corp.	5.7	6	5.7	5.7	5,157,000
8.2	2.8	PAL Holdings Inc.	7	7	7	7	39,000
0.215	0.01	Pacifica Inc. A	0.175	0.175	0.165	0.17	138,730,000
1.54	0.72	Prime Media Holdings Inc.	0.74	0.74	0.72	0.74	800,000
0.75	0.18	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.43	0.47	0.43	0.45	15,750,000
452.5	230.17	SM Investments Corp.	360	362.5	360	360	665,130
2.1	1.08	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	101,000
0.73	0.125	Sinophil Corp.	0.4	0.44	0.4	0.41	56,160,000
1.06	0.59	Solid Group Inc.	0.72	0.73	0.72	0.73	90,000
1.6	0.9	South China Resources Inc.	1.4	1.42	1.36	1.42	397,000
23	1	TKC Steel Corp.	18	18	18	18	22,000
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.38	0.39	0.37	0.38	43,420,000
1.1	0.26	Zeus Holdings Inc	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	50,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	0.96	A Brown Company Inc.	1.4	1.44	1.4	1.44	343,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc.	8	8.1	7.9	7.9	43,000
1.06	0.32	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.73	0.73	0.72	0.72	130,000
19.25	11.25	Ayala Land Inc.	15	15.5	14.75	15.25	15,163,100
1.88	1	Belle Corp.	1.14	1.22	1.14	1.2	6,983,000
4.7	2.65	Cebu Holdings Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.7	3.7	74,000
2.9	1.3	Cityland Development Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	10,000
0.86	0.31	Crown Equities Inc.	0.63	0.64	0.63	0.63	1,990,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.46	0.48	0.46	0.47	3,950,000
0.99	0.5	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.67	0.68	8,680,000
0.47	0.05	Ever Gotesco Res. and Hold'gs Inc.	0.26	0.29	0.26	0.28	46,170,000
1.48	0.51	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.14	1.14	2,363,000
2.44	1.18	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.48	1.5	1.46	1.48	72,194,000
0.49	0.1	Golesco Land Inc. A	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	220,000
0.5	0.1	Golesco Land Inc. B	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	130,000
1.12	0.24	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.62	0.62	510,000
4.4	1.73	Megaworld Corp.	3.2	3.25	3.15	3.2	45,044,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	3.95	3.95	3.65	3.65	16,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.39	0.4	0.38	0.39	700,000
0.87	0.32	Phil. Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.47	0.49	0.47	0.47	3,470,000
9.2	1.1	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	4.1	4.25	4.1	4.1	70,000
23	12.5	Robinson Land Corp.	17.25	17.25	17	17	3,254,200
5.9	1.52	SM Development Corp.	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.8	2,860,000
13.5	6.64	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11.5	11.75	11.25	11.5	5,693,600
3.25	0.98	Shang Properties Inc.	2.55	2.55	2.5	2.5	510,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.64	0.65	0.64	0.64	1,960,000
0.49	0.08	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.3	0.28	0.29	18,300,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	5.1	5.1	4.95	5	1,712,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	16.25	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	32	32	31.5	32	130,300
11.75	8.7	GMA Network Inc.	9.4	9.4	9.2	9.4	482,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	1.26	1.28	1.26	1.28	1,258,000
1,445.00	1,055.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,380.00	1,400.00	1,380.00	1,400.00	92,900
2,855.00	2,150.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,800.00	2,805.00	2,800.00	2,805.00	37,020
7.9	4.5	Pilipino Telephone Corp	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	1,190,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.195	0.195	2,180,000
12	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	9	9	9	9	1,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	8.4	8.5	8.3	8.4	592,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.03	0.033	0.03	0.032	150,900,000
29.5	8	Imperial Resources Inc. A	15	15	15	15	2,000
2.9	1.48	Ionics Inc.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	21,000
0.32	0.043	Island Info and Technology Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.185	0.185	11,490,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.22	1.24	225,000
0.0725	0.028	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.049	0.049	0.048	0.049	73,100,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Broadband Grp Int'l Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.6	2,583,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
2.14	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.46	1.46	303,000
6.8	3.5	Asian Terminals Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	46,000
34.5	16.25	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc	33	34.5	33	34.5	1,097,000
2.04	1.04	Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.28	1.28	38,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
16.5	5	Acesite (Phils.) Hotel Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	70,000
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp	2.75	2.8	2.75	2.8	129,000
0.95	0.3	Premiere Entertainment Prod'n Inc	0.52	0.54	0.5	0.54	750,000
		EDUCATION					
9.8	7.2	Centro Escolar University	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	4,000
950	650	Far Eastern University Inc.	825	880	825	880	1,100
3.7	2.6	IPeople Inc	3.05	3.05	3	3	83,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	1.94	Macroasia Corp.	4.75	4.75	4.65	4.7	279,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	12	12.25	12	12.25	282,500
30	10	Paxys Inc	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.25	173,900
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	1,240,500,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Company Inc. A	6	6.4	6	6.2	877,000
7.7	3.85	Apex Mining Company Inc. B	6	6.5	6	6.2	580,000
21.25	7.7	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	14.5	15.25	14.5	15	4,229,500
14.25	8.9	Benguet Corp. A	12	12	12	12	26,000
3.1	0.44	GEOGRACE Resources Philippines Inc.	1.98	2.02	1.96	2	55,021,000
0.36	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. A	0.36	0.36	0.34	0.36	92,250,000
0.42	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. B	0.38	0.38	0.36	0.37	5,840,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. A	0.029	0.029	0.028	0.028	184,400,000
0.041	0.02	Manila Mining Corp. B	0.032	0.032	0.031	0.031	4,700,000
0.021	0.0079	Omico Corp.	0.012	0.014	0.012	0.014	1,285,800,000
7.7	3.45	Philex Mining Corp.	7.4	7.7	7.4	7.6	16,451,000
43	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	32.5	33.5	32.5	33.5	103,900
1.36	0.39	United Paragon Mining Corp.	1.08	1.12	1	1.02	7,955,000
1.8	0.56	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	1,500,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.38	0.39	0.37	0.37	46,090,000
0.026	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. A	0.024	0.026	0.024	0.026	770,400,000
0.027	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. B	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	290,200,000
11.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	9.8	10	9.8	10	113,000
0.028	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.025	0.027	0.025	0.027	755,400,000

AVERAGES				VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	887.04	DOWN	6.01	28,853,320	660,676,060.00
Industrial	4,501.48	DOWN	10.65	93,216,400	463,063,460.00
Holding Firms	1,917.12	UP	6.84	589,679,450	784,737,680.00
Property	1,517.23	UP	18.83	242,542,900	664,083,775.00
Service	1,675.69	UP	10.28	247,490,720	321,610,865.00
Mining & Oil	7,229.19	UP	188.83	4,762,436,400	457,183,300.00
All Shares Index	2,148.74	UP	5.21		
PSEI	3,434.45	UP	10.72		
		GRAND TOTALS		5,964,219,190	3,351,355,140.00

Mafia hit squad

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

IT LOOKS LIKE THE NOTORIous "Napocor mafia" is dead serious in its plan to maim the Epira law.

Backed up by the "cappo de tutti cappi" (i.e., Malacañang), the Napocor mafia just got an opening for a possible hit—and in the Senate, at that!

Don't tell me that senators are in the mafia's hit squad!

In case you had buried yourself the whole of last week—perhaps to get away from all the antics of Speaker Jose "Yoda" de Venecia's fair-haired boy—let me inform you that, last Wednesday, the Senate already conducted its first hearing on the Epira amendments.

The target is the provision in the law that requires Napocor to privatize all of its power plants by 2009, or two years from now.

At the moment, Napocor is already violating the law, because it failed to follow the provision that it should sell at least 70 percent of its power plants by 2006.

So far, Napocor has privatized only 28 percent. Grudgingly, too!

In the first Senate hearing last week, experts in the power industry testified that nothing is wrong with the Epira.

They indicated that, on the contrary, the problem lies in the people who are supposed to implement the law. They are taking forever to privatize the plants, period.

Crucial in the success of the Epira—which was designed to bring down electricity rates in a country that boasts of having the second highest power costs in the whole of Asia—is some honest-to-goodness competition in the power sector.

That is impossible to achieve, obviously, since Napocor still exercises monopolistic control in the sector.

For instance, Napocor president Cyril del Callar was involved in a price-fixing scandal last year in the so-called WESM, or the wholesale electricity spot market.

Thanks to that price manipulation, which by the way was already proven by the Energy Regulatory Commission, we must now bear a P2-per kilowatt hour increase in our electricity bills.

Or take Napocor's order of coal supply early this year, for which we paid a stiff price of $80 to $125 per ton, even when the prevailing price at that time was only $60 per ton.

Guess what? We still must pay for it, overpriced and all.

Now we are treated to this legislative lobby of the same guys who brought us much suffering. They want to keep the Napocor monopoly by amending the Epira. Of course they also get to keep their rackets.

And so, if the senators do not see through such a scheme, are we in trouble!

* * *

OKAY, PERHAPS to end the circus in the Senate about that contract with the Chinese firm ZTE, this administration was forced to cancel it.

But is the Palace really convinced that the cancelation can hush all the noise over the issue?

There really is something more to it than just plain pesos and centavos or, to be more precise, dollars and cents.

According to a Cabinet member, most top guns of this administration are talking about the geopolitics behind the issue, which should pit the interest of the world's only superpower, which happens to be the United States, in this part of the world against that of the world's next emerging superpower, which is China. *'Nay ko!*

Anyway, caught in the clash between China and US interests, which should only be painful for us down here, is the cyber education project of the Department of Education.

What do they call it again in the killing business, "collateral damage?"

Okay, the DepEd project may be tainted because of the allegations on the NBN project of the DOTC, since both of them involved Chinese groups.

But so far, the DepEd project has no contract. Again, NO contract! It is still only a memorandum of agreement—just a freaking MOA—that was unfortunately bunched together with the NBN contract.

If something is wrong with the MOA on the "cyber education" project, by all means let us correct it.

I mean, if the roof is leaking, you don't burn the whole house!

Malacañang cannot just drop the project to appease some groups who stand to make a lot of money, if they have not already made tons of it, from the botched NBN project.

The country needs the cyber education project. This much is clear. It is the only solution to our gigantic problems in education.

Look, all our neighbors are already into satellite-fed hi-tech school lectures. We are still using stone tablets.

And we are amazed that our kids are falling behind the rest of the world in mathematics and science subjects?

* * *

NOW IF THE aim of Yoda's fair-haired boy is to kill the ZTE contract, presumably because it is costly for us, perhaps we can now expect him and his group to go all-out in pursuing the NBN project.

Bear in mind that Joey de Venecia did not attack the NBN project. By golly, he wanted it for himself, didn't he?

Unfortunately for him, the validity of the ZTE contract is still up to the judiciary.

To get the NBN project, therefore, Joey de Venecia will have to wait for his chance, if and when the court decides to nullify the ZTE contract.

Never mind that it is the same project that was already shot down during the administrations of Fidel "Kuya Eddie" Ramos, Joseph "Wrist Band" Estrada and even Gloria "the Lola" Macapagal-Arroyo.

From what I hear, the Lola at first shot it down when it was brought to her by, who else, the group of Yoda, who seem to have mastered the China connection.

By the way, it is the same group that is said to be behind the company called Philippine Broadband that was fortunate enough to have gotten one of only two broadband frequency assignments from the National Telecommunications Commission.

The other is owned by Meridian of Mark Jimenez, which was sold to PLDT for hundreds of millions.

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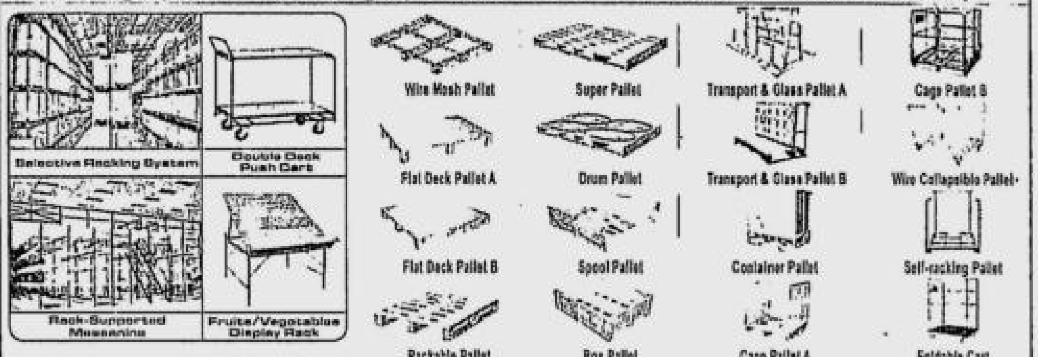

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91-day T-bill ...

From page B1

Philippine government, than what they require from securities issued by the United States. Domestic interest rates should therefore be higher than US interest rates to attract investors.

Only the 364-day bills fetched a higher interest rate, hitting 5.643 percent, or 3.6 basis points higher than its previous rate of 6.607 percent.

It was the first time that the Bureau of the Treasury accepted bids for the one-year bills after two consecutive auctions, where all tenders for these instruments were rejected.

The rejections, according to treasury officials, were made due to "absurdly high" rates sought by investors.

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10.0MM and up	5.00	5.00

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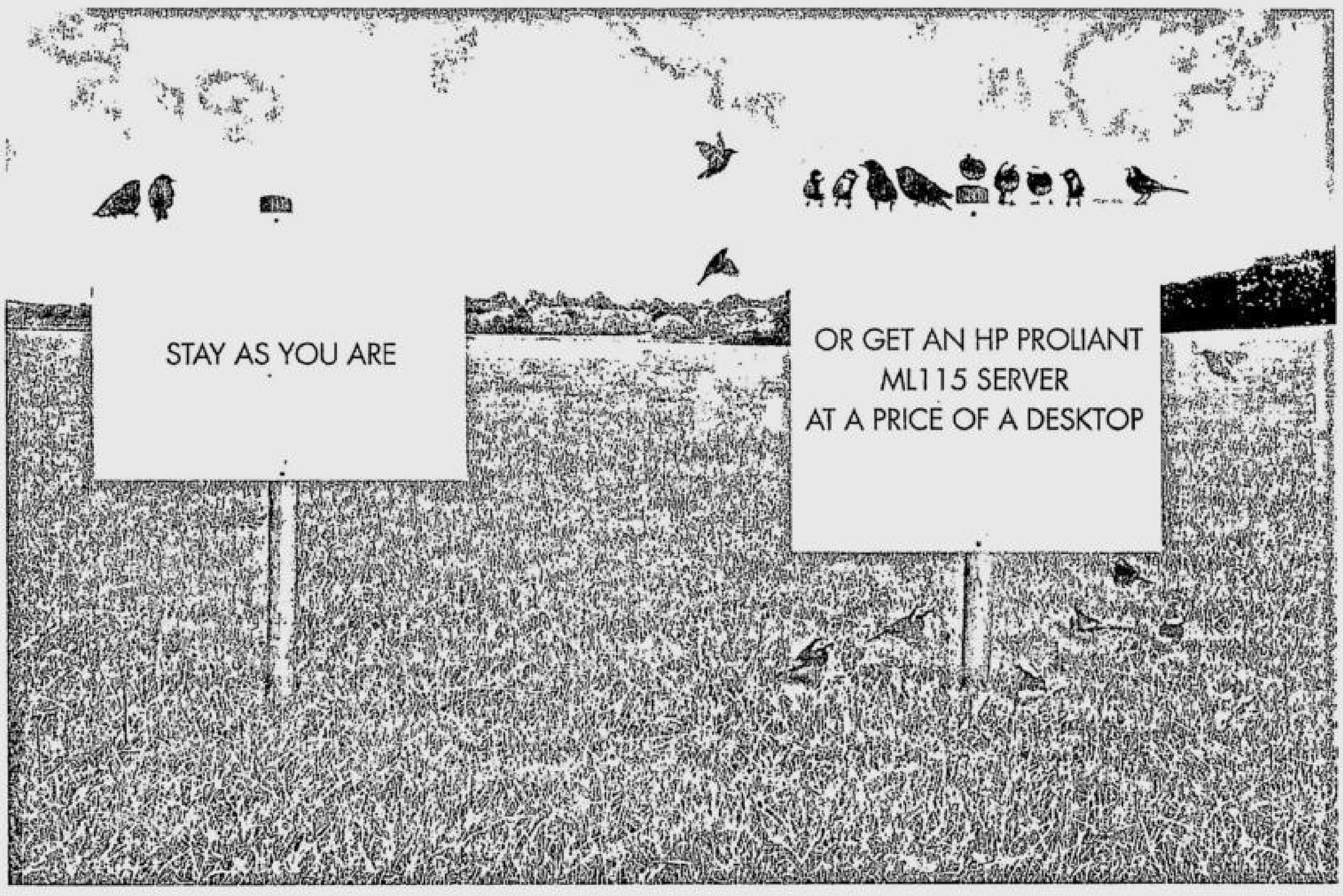

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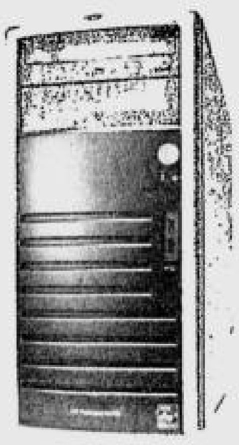

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AMD 64 Opteron

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AEI Marks Six Years of Excellence

Asian Eye Institute held its 6th anniversary celebration at The Loft at Manansala Towers in Rockwell Center, Makati City. The highlights of the anniversary were the introduction of the Institute's new president, Benjamin K. Liboro, and the presentation of service and recognition awards to employees. Present during the anniversary were AEI Chairman Mr. Oscar Lopez, Mr. Manolo Lopez, Mr. Jose Cuisia, partners and friends.

AEI MILESTONES

2001

- Launched AEI Rockwell Clinic
- Introduced potential acuity meter to estimate achievable vision after cataract surgery
- Introduced Planoscan or Conventional Lasik laser refractive surgery
- Established Japanese customer service team

2002

- Acquired Photodynamic Laser for the treatment of macular degeneration
- Partnered with Bausch & Lomb for an Intravitreal Steroid Implant study, the first time an international company conducted research on a novel ocular drug device in the Philippines
- Introduced new Lasik technology (Zyoptix or Customized Lasik)
- Sponsored scientific lectures by world-renowned ophthalmologist Frank Myers
- Certified as Clinical Study Site by Western Institutional Review Board of California, USA
- Established AEI Independent Review Board for monitoring safety in clinical studies
- Partnered with Ophthalmological Foundation of the Philippines (OFPHIL) to provide cataract surgeries for indigent patients

2003

- Introduced Intravitreal Steroid in the treatment of macular edema caused by diabetic retinopathy and clogged blood vessels
- Introduced Cold PhacoEmulsification for washing out of cataract without sutures
- Established the Low Vision / Visual Rehabilitation Service and Optical Dispensary at AEI Rockwell
- Established International Customer Service for the Japanese and Korean market

2004

- Acquired the B&L Technolas 217 Z-100 Excimer Lasik technology
- Introduced Radial Optic Neurotomy to treat central vein occlusion (unclogging of retinal blood vessels) and Transpupillary Thermotherapy for treatment of central serious retinopathy (leakage of the retina)
- Achieved Philhealth accreditation
- Offered fellowship training in Low Vision and Visual Rehabilitation
- Partnered with B&L for Lasik studies, one of only four centers in Asia

2005

- Introduced Aspheric LASIK technology for better nighttime vision
- Acquired optical coherence tomography for diagnosis and monitoring of glaucoma and retinal diseases
- Awarded "Outstanding Eye Care Center" for 2004-2005 by the Consumers Union of the Philippines

2006

- Introduced anti-VEGF (Lucentis, Macugen and Avastin) treatment for macular degeneration (the first commercial use of Macugen in Asia)
- Introduced Aspheric IOL technology (extra clear vision after cataract surgery)
- Introduced the first Multifocal Lens (Restor) for ability to see near and far distance without wearing eyeglasses at any age
- Introduced sutureless retina surgery
- Achieved certification to ISO 9001:2000, ISO 14001:2005 and OHSAS 18000:1999 standards, the first ambulatory health care facility in the Philippines to do so
- Recognized as an Investor in People by the International Quality Centre, U.K. for valuing human resources
- Expanded customer service for the Indian, European and U.S. markets

2007

- Served over 40,000 patients since 2001
- Launched the AEI TriNoma Satellite Clinic
- Introduced Toric IOL (IntraOcular Lens) for astigmatism
- Introduced Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty for glaucoma
- Partnered with Allergan on intra-vitreal dexamethasone study (swelling of the retina due to diabetes and hypertension)
- Sponsored technician certifications in Optical Coherence Tomography and Fundus Photography by the Fundus Photography Reading Center, University of Wisconsin
- Introduced AEI-OFPHIL fellowship program in glaucoma
- Introduced the AEI Medical Travel program
- Expanded customer service for the Chinese and Southeast Asian markets

AEI launches Medical Travel

Asian Eye Institute now offers patients a medical travel package that combines world-class eye treatment, at a more reasonable cost than in the US and other countries, with a relaxing vacation in some of the best establishments and resorts in the Philippines, under special rates and packages. Patients have the option to stay while on treatment in Makati Shangri-La Hotel, Hotel Intercontinental, and Oxford Suites Makati. For leisure travel, choices of resorts include Alegre Beach in Cebu, Seawind in Boracay, and Club Noah in Palawan.

We also understand the feeling of anxiety and the need for special care of patients who are away from home while undergoing treatment. Our International Customer Service Group, composed of different Asian nationals, will be happy to facilitate your medical visit. Language interpretation (for Japanese, Korean, Chinese, Indian, Indonesian, and German) is a value added service that is offered within the facility, free of charge.

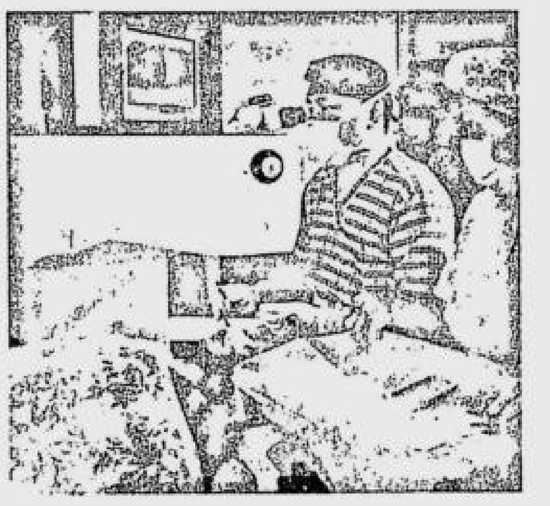
Not qualified for lasik? There are options

Many patients come to Asian Eye Institute (AEI) to undergo laser surgery because they are tired of the hassle of wearing eyeglasses or contact lenses.

LASIK remains to be the most popular form of laser vision correction. In LASIK, we cut a thick flap on the cornea, vaporize tissue with the laser and reposition the flap afterwards. Having a thick flap protects the (lasered area) eyes from infection and hastens healing.

But not everyone is qualified for LASIK. In around two to five percent of cases, the corneal thickness is not enough to accommodate cutting a flap, removing tissue for laser correction and still have enough thickness to maintain the strength and structural integrity of the cornea over the next few years. If the cornea is too thin it weakens and deformation occurs, leading to irregular grade or astigmatism. This condition is called ectasia. Additional laser surgery is not advisable because it may further weaken an already thin cornea. Patients would then need to go back to wearing eyeglasses or hard contact lens.

Each person is born with a pre-determined corneal thickness, and this does not change even as we age. During the screening test before LASIK, we perform specific measurements and if the corneal thickness after computation falls below the internationally accepted guidelines, we inform the patient that LASIK may not be the safest procedure to correct their grade with the use of laser.

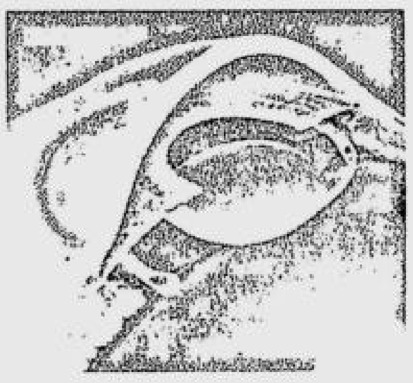


We suggest surface ablation procedures such as PRK (Photorefractive keratectomy), LASEK (Laser epithelial keratomileusis) or EpiLASIK. Among these treatments, EpiLASIK and LASEK are widely used because a thin layer of cells is preserved and returned over the part of the cornea that received laser treatment for protection and to aid in healing.

In June 2007, AEI presented its results at an international convention of laser surgeons in Bangkok and showed that EpiLASIK and LASEK are safe and effective in the treatment of nearsightedness and astigmatism.

The AEI offers a full range of laser vision correction procedures. Its strict screening protocol ensures a safe recommendation of what is best for each individual.

Goodbye Astigmatism with Toric IOLs



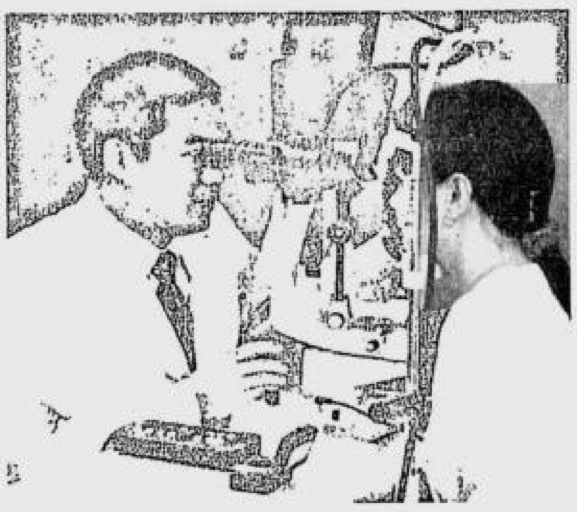
Intraocular lenses (IOLs) are artificial lenses placed in the eye to restore vision after removal of a clouded natural lens (cataract). The latest generation of IOL—called Toric IOL—can now correct astigmatism and improve visual results after cataract surgery or refractive lens exchange. Astigmatism is the irregular shape of an eye that prevents light from being, focused sharply and causes blurred vision and inability to see fine details.The Toric IOL simultaneously corrects poor vision from cataracts, near and farsightedness, and now, astigmatism, a relief for astigmatic patients! The Asian Eye Institute is one of the pioneers in using ACRYSOF® Toric IOL technology (Alcon). ACRYSOF Toric IOLs have been shown in clinical studies to provide good distance vision, without the use of spectacles or contact lenses, in patients who have undergone cataract surgery or refractive lens exchange. There are no known contraindications and no additional risks to its use.

Hope for macular degeneration: Anti-VEGF drugs

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) affects one of four elderly patients (>65 years old) and is the leading cause of blindness in developed countries. Symptoms of AMD include blurred central vision leading to inability to read or drive. When a patient develops the wet form of AMD—when abnormal blood vessels leak or bleed, damaging the retina--blindness usually takes place within two years. Previously, wet AMD was treated with lasers, which at best would slow down the rate of visual loss. There was practically no hope for regaining vision.

Two years ago, doctors from the Asian Eye Institute pioneered in the Philippines a treatment for wet AMD using anti-VEGF drugs, which cause rapid closure of the abnormal blood vessels. Use of these drugs leads to restoration or improvement of vision in around 80 percent of eyes. Due to these exciting results, anti-VEGF drugs have become the standard of care for wet AMD. For the first time, patients can now expect improvement in their vision from anti-VEGF treatments. Available treatments include: Macugen (Pfizer), Lucentis (Novartis), and Avastin (Roche).

SLT: A revolutionary treatment for Glaucoma



A revolutionary treatment for glaucoma, Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty (SLT) controls eye pressure, minimizing the use of eye drops. SLT opens clogged drains in the eye and restores eye pressure back to a safe level to prevent further progression of the disease. Effective and successful for most open-angle glaucoma patients, SLT is a clear alternative for conditions not controlled with previous laser surgery or eye drops. It is painless and non-invasive, and does not involve needles, knives or sutures. It is simple and convenient. The procedure takes only five minutes, and involves no restrictions or limitations for the patient after treatment. It may also replace the daily use of expensive eye drops.

The effect of the laser may wear off over time. Serious complications with SLT are extremely rare, but like any other surgical procedure, it has some risks. Going to an eye doctor experienced in SLT can minimize such occurrences. Ask your glaucoma specialists at AEI about this new laser for glaucoma.

Partners and Friends of Asian Eye Institute

ABS-CBN

Alcon

ALLERGAN Eye Care

Bausch & Lomb
Bausch & Lomb (S) Pte Ltd

BVLGARI

Makati Supermart

CASH & CARRY SUPERMARKET

PHILAM LIFE

First Gen

First Philippine Industrial Park

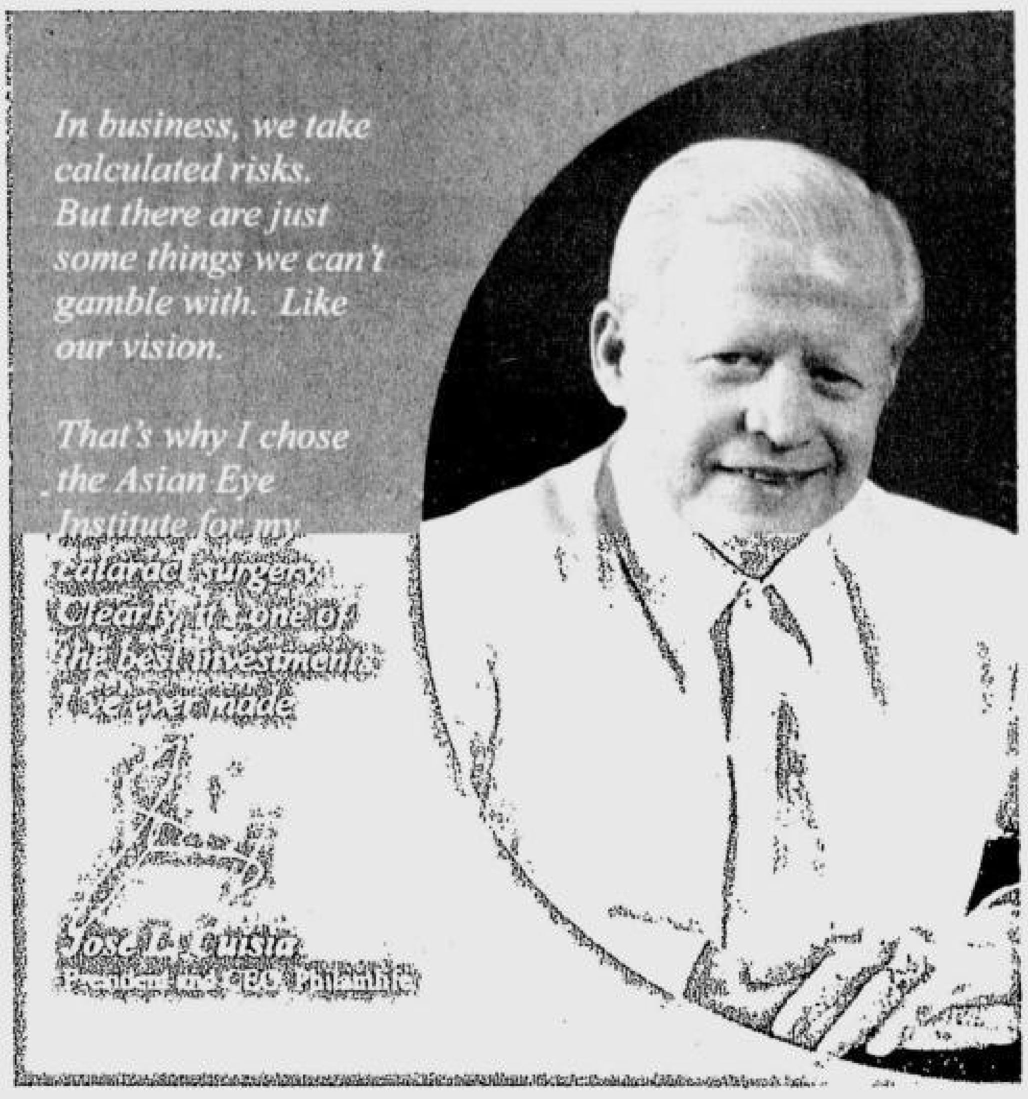
MEDILIGHT

ROCKWELL LAND

First Philippine Holdings Corporation

Asian Eye Institute at Six: FORWARD AND NORTHWARD

AEI opens satellite clinic in TriNoma


In business, we take calculated risks. But there are just some things we can't gamble with. Like our vision.
That's why I chose the Asian Eye Institute for my cataract surgery. Clearly, it's one of the best investments I ever made.
Jose T. Cuisia
President and CEO, Philamlife

AEI in TriNoma hopes to serve the eye care and treatment needs of people who live in the northern part of Metro Manila, especially residents of Quezon City, Malabon, Caloocan, Valenzuela, and nearby provinces like Bulacan and Pampanga.

(L-R) Mr. Lopez, Mayor Belmonte, priest-presider Father Allan Samonte, and AEI founding President and Medical Director. Dr. Felipe I. Tolentino

"We went right in the direction where the compass needle always points: North."

With these words, Oscar M. Lopez, chief of the Lopez Group of Companies, formally inaugurated last Aug. 7 the new satellite clinic of Asian Eye Institute (AEI) in TriNoma, the new Ayala mall in north Quezon City.

Lopez founded this world-class eye center in 2001 with renowned U.S.-based Filipino ophthalmologist, Dr. Felipe I. Tolentino, who was at the occasion together with Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte, Jr.

"This new clinic in TriNoma, the Institute's first satellite, signals our readiness for growth," Lopez said, noting AEI's commitment to bring its services closer to the people, especially to those who live in the northern cities and provinces. Quezon City is the largest in Metro Manila and the gateway to the metropolis for those coming in from the northern part of Luzon.

Lopez also noted AEI's commitment to "discover and deliver" more innovative and efficient services to its patients through continuing research. "We want to make sure that the advances made abroad through research and education also find their way here where we can make use of them directly or adapt them to suit our needs more closely and thereby benefit more of our people," he said.

Meanwhile, AEI founding President and Medical Director Dr. Tolentino took the occasion as an opportunity to highlight the uniqueness of the Institute, which he considers as the reason why the Institute is able to offer first-rate services.

"AEI is unique because our medical staff is committed full time to serve our patients, and they have the passion to improve the outcome of their treatment through research," he said.

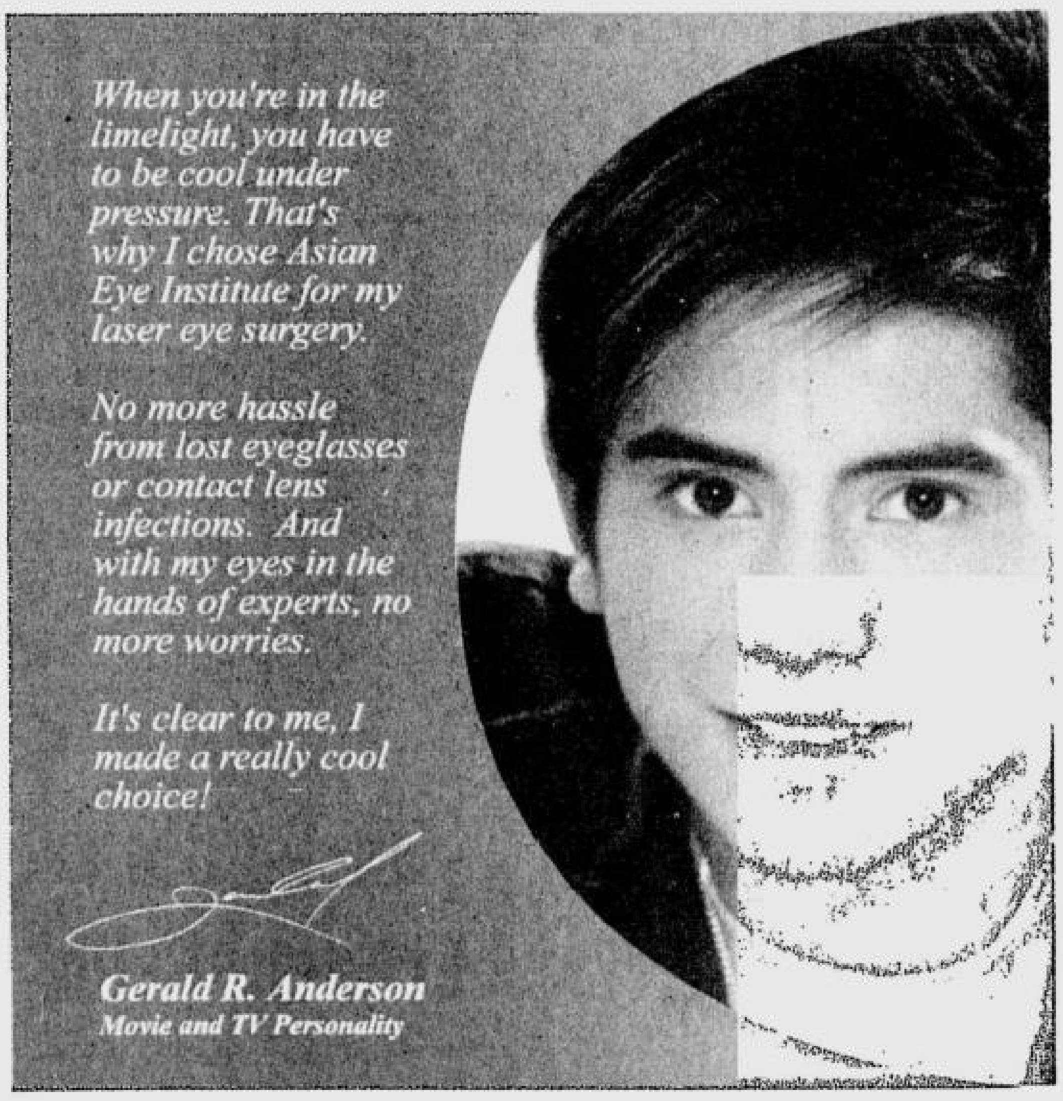
The Institute conducts research and works with noted pharmaceutical companies for developing drugs that would advance eye care and treatment.

The opening of the new AEI clinic in TriNoma, according to Tolentino, coincides with AEI's sixth year anniversary in September, and "the Institute looks back with much pride for all its accomplishments through all those years," he said.

Mayor Belmonte, for his part, expressed gratitude to AEI for choosing Quezon City as the location of its first satellite clinic. "AEI's presence in TriNoma affirms the City's booming economy and improving lifestyle of our people; now we can say that our residents here in the City can avail of high quality health care services," he said.

In addition to its expansion and research pursuits, AEI also continues its social and community service projects. In 2006, AEI, the Ophthalmological Foundation of the Philippines, and the Quezon City government signed an agreement to provide free cataract surgeries to select indigents of the City. The program is ongoing.

The TriNoma clinic offers general eye consultations, diagnosis and management of diseases (e.g. cataract, glaucoma, retinal diseases, strabismus), screening for LASIK (laser eye surgery), and pediatric eye care. Clinic hours are 10AM to 6PM, 7 days a week, with at least one in-clinic ophthalmologist daily. Surgeries are all done in AEI Rockwell to ensure the controlled environment so necessary in eye procedures.


When you're in the limelight, you have to be cool under pressure. That's why I chose Asian Eye Institute for my laser eye surgery.
No more hassle from lost eyeglasses or contact lens infections. And with my eyes in the hands of experts, no more worries.
It's clear to me, I made a really cool choice!
Gerald R. Anderson
Movie and TV Personality

Our Services

Treatment and Management of Diseases
AEI offers comprehensive eye examinations and diagnostic checks, laser procedures or surgery for cataract, uveitis, glaucoma and retinal diseases like diabetic retinopathy, macular degeneration, retinal detachment, retinal vein occlusion, and macular holes.

AEI performs modern cataract surgery under eye drop anesthesia—no stitches, no confinement. We give our patients a choice of the latest intraocular lenses (IOL) from the U.S. and Europe. AEI was the first in the Philippines to introduce advanced medicines for macular degeneration and thereby offer hope for patients to regain vision

LASIK (Refractive Laser Eye Surgery)
AEI offers the ideal lifestyle solution for those who want to get rid of their eyeglasses and contact lenses. LASIK is fast, safe, and virtually painless The entire procedure takes about five minutes per eye, and patients can return to their normal routine like working, reading and driving within one to two days. The Institute specializes in Zyoptix customized and aspheric LASIK, which are performed by a full-time, dedicated eye surgeon.

Oculoplastic Surgery
Eyelid deformities can cause eyelashes to grow inward, causing injury to the surface of the eye and also blocking vision. AEI's eye plastic surgery service specializes in fixing such deformities. It also offers cosmetic enhancements, such as adding the eyelid fold that most Asian women want to have.

Pediatric Ophthalmology
Children also have vision problems but some may be unable to communicate this to their parents. Such conditions, if left untreated, may permanently limit a child's visual potential. Bringing a child to AEI for his first complete eye examination may be one of a parent's most important decisions.

Low Vision and Visual Rehabilitation
Our Low Vision Center specializes in the evaluation and rehabilitation of patients to maximize their remaining eyesight and enable them to enjoy quality of life despite their vision problems AEI has a full range of low vision devices and a rehabilitation facility to help address varying requirements.

Contact Lens Service
AEI provides evaluation and management of all contact lens needs and problems, including nearsightedness, farsightedness, and astigmatism.
It offers conventional, toric, aspheric, bifocal, multifocal, and other customized contact lens designs.

Optical Dispensary
AEI's Rockwell facility has an Optical Dispensary with a wide selection of frames, sunglasses, protective sports eyewear, and other accessories. A quality assurance system is in place to ensure we dispense only quality optical products.

THE MEDICAL TEAM

Front Row (L-R): Dr. Norman Fajardo, Dr. Edgar Leuenberger, Dr. Annabelle Ching, Dr. Felipe Tolentino, Dr. Imelda Yap-Veloso, Dr Pik Sha Chan-Uy
Second Row (L-R): Dr. Robert Ang, Dr. Jesse Caguioa, Dr. Amadeo Veloso, Dr. Harvey Uy, Dr. Franklin Kleiner, Dr. Jocelyn Ang

The medical team of Asian Eye Institute is composed of experienced eye specialists who are fellowship graduates of Harvard Medical School.

FELIPE I. TOLENTINO
Founding President & Medical Director

ROBERT EDWARD T. ANG, M.D.
Cornea & Refractive Surgery
Glaucoma & Cataract
Comprehensive Ophthalmology

ANNABELLE A. CHING, M.D.
Glaucoma & Cataract
Comprehensive Ophthalmology

EDGAR U. LEUENBERGER, M.D.
Glaucoma & Cataract
Comprehensive Ophthalmology

NORMAN ERIC F. FAJARDO, M.D.
Pediatric Ophthalmology & Strabismus
Cataract
Comprehensive Ophthalmology

MARY JOCELYN U. ANG, M.D.
General & Pediatric Anesthesiology

FRANKLIN G. KLEINER, M.D.
Eye Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
Orbital & Lacrimal Surgery

HARVEY S. UY, M.D.
Uveitis & Ocular Immunology
Retina & Vitreous Disease
Cataract
Comprehensive Ophthalmology

PIK SHA T. CHAN-UY M.D.
Adult Retina & Vitreous Disease
Pediatric Ophthalmology & Strabismus
Cataract
Comprehensive Ophthalmology

AMADEO A. S. VELOSO, JR., M.D.
Retina & Vitreous Disease
Cataract
Comprehensive Ophthalmology

IMELDA R. YAP-VELOSO, M.D.
Glaucoma & Cataract
Comprehensive Ophthalmology

JESSE B. CAGUIOA, O.D.
Vision Rehabilitation Specialist

ASIAN
EYE
INSTITUTE
AEI

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Mobile No. (+63917) 897-2020
Fax No. (+632) 901-3865
Email: aei_trinoma@globelines.com.ph

Because your eyes are worth it.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS PHILIPPINES CORP. G/F Bonaventure Plaza, Ortigas Ave., Greenhills, San Juan City	Seung Bo Lee Korean	Head of Service Marketing
BENDICE TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT INC. 2/F Unit A, Orchid Tower, Oriental Garden, Chino Roces Ave., Makati City	Herbert Gebhard Weber Deutsch	Chief Transportation Officer
24HRS CAR CENTER CORP. 8418 Sucat Rd., Goodwill Subd., BF Homes, Parañaque City	Yongsen Yao Chinese	Branch Manager
TM (MANILA) SHIP-MANAGEMENT, INC. Suite 804 Ermita Center Bldg., 1350 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila	Masaru Tamura Japanese	Director/President
PENN PHILIPPINES, INC. FTI Avenue, FTI Complex, Taguig, M.M.	William Wright King Australian	Knitting Manager
JALLANDAR LENDING INVESTOR CO. 12-B Rev. Garcia St., Project 4, Quezon City	Amit Chohan Indian	Sales Representative
DELTA ROCK RESOURCES INT'L. CORPORATION Unit 740 City & Land Mega Plaza, Brgy. San Antonio, Pasig City	Kap Yong Lee Korean	President
DELTA ROCK RESOURCES INT'L. CORPORATION Unit 740 City & Land Mega Plaza, Brgy. San Antonio, Pasig City	Ji Hoon Lee Korean	Vice President/ Business Development Manager
NOKIA SIEMENS NETWORKS PHILIPPINES, INC. 20/F Philamlife Tower, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Timo Otto Ajo Finnish	Core System Specialist
4D STEEL DETAILING (ASIA) LIMITED Unit 303 B The Taipan Place, Emerald Ave., Ortigas, Pasig City	Richard David Charles Cullen New Zealand	Operations Manager
MOO DEUNG CORP. B26 LA 301 Automotive Precinct Westgate, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Yeongsuk Hong Korean	Chairman of the Board/President
JE SE GROUP OF COMPANIES PHILS. CORPORATION 3/F Legaspi Tower 300, P. Ocampo St., Malate, Manila	Myoungseong Jang Korean	Assistant General Manager of Accounting
EXCELLENT_HAPPY TRADING CORPORATION G/F Legaspi Tower 300 cor. P. Ocampo St., Malate, Manila	Yunock Park (wife of CHOI) Korean	Assistant General Manager
NORWEGIAN MARITIME FOUNDATION OF THE PHILS. INC. NTC Bldg., TESDA Complex, East Service Rd., Taguig City	Finn Guriby Norwegian	Consultant
BU-ZZA TRADING INC. 761 Roxas Blvd., Tambo, Paranaque City	Sung Hoon Kang Korean	Sales Manager
BU-ZZA TRADING INC. 761 Roxas Blvd., Tambo, Parañaque City	Jeong Lim Kim (w/o KANG) Korean	Marketing Manager
EDUGATE INCORPORATED 320 2C East Tower, PSEC, Exchange Rd., Pasig City	Daegun Park Korean	Call Center Analyst

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC-Regional Director

(PDI–September 25, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Center for Health Development – X
NORTHERN MINDANAO MEDICAL CENTER
Capitol Compound, Cagayan de Oro City
Telephone No.: 726362; Fax No.: 721794
Website: www.doh.gov.ph/nmmc

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NORTHERN MINDANAO MEDICAL CENTER (NMMC), through the General Appropriations Act 2007 intends to apply the sum of Two Million Four Hundred Ninety Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Fourteen Pesos and Fifty Centavos **(Php2,497,914.50)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments for the procurement for various hospital supplies. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The Northern Mindanao Medical Center now invites Bids from eligible bidders for various hospital supplies. Delivery of the goods is required by November 2007. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act." And is restricted to Filipino citizens/ sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Northern Mindanao Medical Center and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Two Thousand Pesos (Php2,000.00). The method of payment will be through Cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The NORTHERN MINDANAO MEDICAL CENTER will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all interested parties on **October 2, 2007 – 2:00 pm at NMMC Training Room.**

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **9:00 am of October 15, 2007.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of Cash/Cashier's Check (One percent of the ABC) or Bank Guarantee (One and one-half percent of the ABC). Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on **October 15, 2007, 9:00 am at NMMC Training Room.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The NORTHERN MINDANAO MEDICAL CENTER reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at anytime prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NORTHERN MINDANAO MEDICAL CENTER
TROY JOHN T. TABANAS, MD, FPAFP, DPSCOT
Capitol Compound
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. No. 08822-726362
Fax number 08822-721794

(Sgd.) **TROY JOHN T. TABANAS, MD, FPAFP, DPSCOT**
BAC Chairman

(PDI–September 25, 2007)

Zamboanga City Electric Cooperative, Inc.
(ZAMCELCO)
Zamboanga City

INVITATION TO BID

The Zamboanga City Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ZAMCELCO) at Putik, this city per requisite under Board Policies on Pre-Qualifications, and Bids and Awards, invites ALL interested Bidders/ Suppliers to bid for the supply of the following electrical materials/equipment/items, to wit:

No	Quantity	Unit	Item Description
1	36	SETS	PSION HANDHELD COMPUTER 2MB RAM SERIAL BOTTOM TYPE WITH EXTECH THERMAL PRINTER 3000T THS SERIES WITH COMPLETE ACCESSORIES CABLE, BATTERY, ADOPTOR, ETC. NOTE: AGENCY PRICE P 92,000.00/SET
2	4	SETS	PSION HANDHELD COMPUTER 2MB RAM SERIAL BOTTOM TYPE WITH MINI SERIAL PRINTER III WITH COMPLETE ACCESSORIES CABLE, BATTERY ADOPTOR, ETC. NOTE: AGENCY PRICE P92,000.00/SET

DELIVERY PERIOD WITHIN 30 DAYS AND PAYABLE WITHIN 12 MONTHS PERIOD AND PAYMENT STARTS ON JANUARY 2008.

You may secure the Pre-qualification Requirements from the office of the Finance Department, ZAMCELCO Complex in Putik, this city anytime during office hours and submit the same upon completion of all requirements thereof.

Submission of the Pre-qualification Requirements shall not be later than 5:00 pm of September 25, 2007 and no documents appertaining thereto, shall be accepted thereafter, UPON PAYMENT OF A NON-REFUNDABLE FEE OF FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00) ONLY.

All applicants will be duly notified as to the results of the pre-qualification eligibility process. Only those who are pre-qualified will be allowed to participate in the bidding. A post-qualification may be conducted accordingly hereafter.

Bidding will be conducted on **October 2, 2007**.

Sealed bid in duplicate copies should be submitted to the Committee on Bids and Awards at the Office of the Finance Department at the above-mentioned address on or before 2:00 p.m. of **October 2, 2007**. Five percent (5%) Bidder's Bond is required as a matter of policy.

The right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein, or to accept such bid as may be considered advantageous to the coop is hereby reserved as an absolute prerogative of ZAMCELCO.

(Sgd.) REINERIO R. RAMOS
General Manager

(PDI–Sept. 25 & 26, 2007)

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PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City
Healthline 637-9999 *www.philhealth.gov.ph*

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID (PUBLIC BIDDING)

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) wishes to invite bidders for the **Enterprise Network Equipment and Enterprise Backup System**, in accordance with the rules on Public Bidding, per Republic Act No. 9184.

Request for Proposal (RFP) can be obtained from September 25, 2007 to October 1, 2007, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Office of the Secretariat – Bids and Awards Committee (OSBAC) Room 1107 11th Floor Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Blvd. Brgy. Oranbo, Pasig City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 5,000.00 per project.

The **PhilHealth** had provided funds for these projects. The approved budgets for the contracts are **Php 6,000,000.00** and **Php 4,100,000.00** respectively.

A pre-bid conference will be held on October 2, 2007 at **10:30** a.m. for the **Enterprise Network Equipment** and **1:30p.m.** for the **Enterprise Back-up System** at the OSBAC Conference Area (Rm. 1106).

The bidders shall prepare their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposal in three separate sealed envelopes and drop in the respective bid boxes located at the above-mentioned address.

Submission of bids will be on October 15, 2007 on or before **10:30 a.m.** for the Enterprise Network Equipment and on or before **1:30 noon** for the Enterprise Back-up System at the OSBAC. Opening of bids will follow at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. respectively at the same venue. Any bidder who comes late will not be entertained. The official time clock shall be the wall clock located at Room 1106 (OSBAC). Any bid submitted after the cut-off time will not be accepted.

The BAC-ITR shall determine if each prospective bidder is eligible to participate in the bidding by examining the completeness of each prospective bidder's eligibility requirements or statements against a checklist of requirements, using the non-**discretionary "pass/fail"** criteria.

To guarantee the faithful performance by the winning bidder of his/her obligations under the contract prepared in accordance with the bidding documents, he/she shall post a Bid Security in any of the following forms and amount;

Forms of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid	Amount of Bid Security for Enterprise Network Equipment	Amount of Bid Security for Enterprise Back-up System
Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%)	Php60,000.00	Php41,000.00
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1 1/2%)	Php90,000.00	Php61,500.00
Surety bond	Two and a half percent (2 1/2%)	Php 150,000.00	Php 102,500.00
Foreign Government Guarantee	One hundred percent (100%)	Php6,000,000.00	Php4,100,000.00

We look forward to your participation in this worthwhile endeavor.

PhilHealth reserves the right to waive any formality on the eligibility requirements of this project. Furthermore, PhilHealth reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) MELINDA C. MERCADO
Senior Vice President, Management Services Sector and
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee for Information Technology Resources

(PDI -- September 25, 2007)

INVITATION TO BID

The Regional Development Council-Cordillera Administrative Region (RDC-CAR) invites interested parties to bid for the project **"Preparation of Cordillera Investment Promotion Collaterals"** with the following components: (a) Development, Printing and Packaging of Regional Investment Brochure; and (b) Enhancement of Existing English DVD and its Translation to Chinese Mandarin, Spanish and Japanese Languages.

To qualify, submit letter of intent, company profile, and at least 2 samples of previous works to the address listed below, not later than 28 September 2007. Terms of Reference shall be released to qualified bidders starting 1 October 2007, at 1:00 PM.

Investment Promo Materials Project
The Regional Development Council-CAR
c/o National Economic and Development Authority
Botanical Garden Leonard Wood Road
2600 Baguio City, PHILIPPINES
Tel. No.: (074) 444-7144

(PDI--Sept. 18 & 25, 2007)

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We thank you so much, whatever your part.

From the family of the late

Brig. Gen. Bienvenido R. Castro (Ret)

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in Me will never die. John 11:25

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In Loving Memory

On the First Death Anniversary of

2LT. ANTONIO T. TUBLE, PAF (Ret.)

October 6, 1933 – September 25, 2006

His loving wife, **Ma. Sergia**, and children, **Edwin & Au, Rommel**, and **Mae Sharon**, request relatives, friends, and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will
be offered for him today,
September 25, 2007 at
Our Lady of Loreto Parish,
Basa Air Base, Floridablanca,
Pampanga at 8:00 AM

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

Mariel Gina Francia Bello

November 6, 1961 - September 20, 2007

of Bangko Sentral Ng Pilipinas passed away on September 20, 2007 after receiving the Last Sacrament.

The bereaved husband: **Ramon (Bong) V. Bello**; daughter: **Samantha Bianca**; parents: **Guillermo V. Francia, Sr.**† and **Aurora A. Francia**†; parents-in-law: **Manuel R. Bello**† and **Conchita V. Bello**; brothers and sisters, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, uncles, aunts, cousins, nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Holy Mass will be held at Loyola Memorial Chapel at 8:00 a.m., September 25, 2007. Interment will follow at Heritage Memorial Park, Taguig City.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord." 2 Corinthians 5:8

DTI-listed investments up 26%

By Ronnel W. Domingo

INVESTMENTS REGISTERED WITH the Department of Trade and Industry's incentives-granting agencies rose 26 percent to P158 billion in January to August this year from year-ago's P126 billion.

In a statement, Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila said the increase showed the level of confidence of both local and foreign investors in the country.

DTI data showed that from January to August, the Board of Investments approved P69 billion worth of projects while the Philippine Economic Zone Authority registered another P89 billion.

Of the total, foreign investors accounted for P80.7 billion or 51 percent of the total, with the American's committing P28.2 and the Japanese, P27 billion.

Favila said the manufacturing sector accounted for 38.4 percent or P60.61 billion of the committed investments, while real estate accounted for P34.8 billion (22 percent); electricity and gas infrastructure, P15.3 billion (9.7 percent); and information technology, P10.9 billion (6.9 percent).

Last year's investments in the manufacturing sector was P31.4 billion.

The biggest projects were Mabuhay Vinyl's P564.6-million facility for the manufacture of caustic soda and hydrochloric acid and liquid and Pilipinas Kyohritsu's P453.3-million automotive wiring harness venture.

Favila said further growth in investments was expected especially in infrastructure development.

Trade Undersecretary Elmer C. Hernandez said the projects approved so far were expected to create 93,164 new jobs.

PNOC-EDC attracts 24 potential bidders

Gov't expects to raise P32-P36B from sale

By Abigail L. Ho

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL CO. HAS ATtracted 24 potential bidders for its 60-percent stake in PNOC Energy Development Corp., the country's largest geothermal energy development company.

The state firm is selling 6 billion common and 7.5 billion preferred shares representing 26.67 percent and 33.33 percent, respectively, of PNOC-EDC's outstanding capital stock.

The 24 groups that met yesterday's noon deadline for the submission of letters of interest included ABN-AMRO Bank, Aboitiz Power Corp., Africa Israel Group-Asia Pacific, Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc., American Orient Capital Partners (Philippines) Inc., Ashmore Energy, ATN Holdings Inc., Belo Gozon Elma Parel Asuncion & Lucilla, Basic Energy Corp., First Gen Corp., Geysir Green Energy represented by Sycip Salazar and International Power Plc.

The other potential bidders included Kanematsu Corp., Latham & Watkins LLP, Marubeni Philippines Corp., One Energy Ltd., Orix Corp., PCCI Securities Brokers Corp., Reykjavik Energy Invest, Rosalie A. Dimaano, Suez Energy Asia Co. Ltd., Sumitomo Corp., Sycip Salazar Hernandez & Gatmaitan Law Offices and Triratna Holdings Corp.

They are vying for the majority stake of PNOC-EDC, which accounts for 60 percent of the country's installed geothermal power plants, with an installed capacity of 1,198 megawatts.

During yesterday's prebid conference, Development Bank of the Philippines president Reynaldo David said the state-owned financial institution was trying to arrange financing for the winning bidder.

"We understand that the timetable is tight and the magnitude is quite substantial. That's why we're trying to arrange some financing. This is not a promise, but we're trying our best. We're working toward that," he said. "It will be good for the winning bidder to have some backup financing."

DBP is the financial advisor for the transaction.

According to the bidding timetable, potential investors have until Oct. 5 to submit the initial prequalification requirements, including the confidentiality agreement and undertaking.

The PNOC Privatization Committee will release the list of prequalified bidders on Oct. 10.

Prequalified bidders will be required to pay a nonrefundable fee of $5,000 on Oct. 11-12 for them to avail themselves of the draft transaction documents, the information package and the due diligence procedures.

Only the prequalified bidders will be allowed to conduct due diligence audit on the shares to be sold.

They will then be required to submit final qualification documents by 7 p.m. of Oct. 26, with those who will be able to pass this final screening to be given until 9 a.m. of Nov. 21 to turn in their bids.

The notice of award will be issued to the winning bidder by Nov. 22, with payment of the entire bid price to be remitted by Nov. 30, the scheduled closing date of the transaction.

In an earlier interview, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the sale of the PNOC-EDC stake would fetch for the government between P32 billion and P36 billion.

But PNOC president Antonio Cailao expects the PNOC-EDC shares to generate even more than that.

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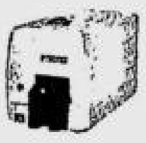
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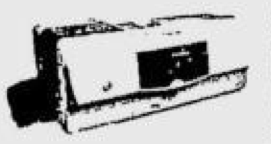
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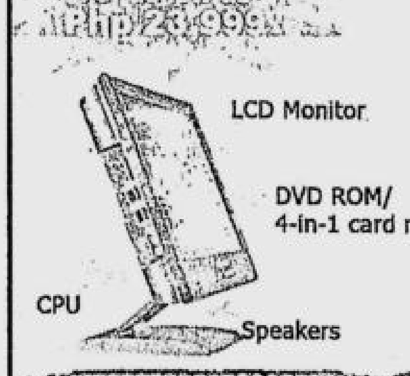

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Customs vows to raise additional ₱12B in revenue

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS HAS COMmitted to generate P12 billion more than its revenue target in the remaining four months of the year.

In last week's BOC command conference meeting presided by President Macapagal-Arroyo, Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales said his office would meet its collection target for the full year despite a shortfall in the first half.

He said measures like automation of its operations would help plug revenue leaks and curb smuggling and help the BOC exceed its collection target for September to December.

The BOC is tasked to collect P228.2 billion for the entire year. For January to August, it was supposed to collect P145.946 billion to stay on track of its full-year target. Actual collection was only P133.894 billion.

Its official target for September to December was set at P82.254 billion, but the BOC vowed to collect P94.306 during the period.

Raising P94.306 billion in September to December would enable the BOC to meet its full-year target.

Due to the shortfalls in the collections of BOI and Bureau of Internal Revenue in the first half, the government breached its budget deficit ceiling during the period.

The Department of Finance, mother agency of the BIR and the BOC, said the government was back on track to meeting its goal of reducing the deficit for the year to only P63 billion after these agencies' collection performance improved in July and August.

Peso seen hitting 42:$1

By Doris C. Dumlao

AMERICAN EXPRESS BANK SEES THE PEso surging to as high as 42:$1 in the next three months on the country's improved macroeconomic fundamentals and reduced global investor aversion to emerging markets.

The peso yesterday closed stronger at 45.155 from Friday's 45.31 to the US dollar as last week's 50-percentage cut in the US Federal Reserve's benchmark rate made Asian currencies and equities more attractive to investors.

In its currency outlook for September-October, the London-based global economics unit of Amex said lower risk aversion would boost peso value.

The bank assigned a 15-percent risk of the peso depreciating by over 10 percent against the greenback in the next three months. Over a 12-month period, Amex sees the peso holding at about 44:$1.

"The improved fiscal performance should remain on track and economic growth will likely stay well-supported by household spending, business investment and government spending, despite the Philippines' high exposure to the prospect of weaker exports," Amex said.

For this year, even the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has scaled down its export growth outlook to 8 percent from an earlier forecast of 11 percent.

"Worker remittance inflows are also well-diversified and will probably hold at a high level," Amex added.

US subprime crisis seen ...

From page B1

biggest economy.

"Regardless of whether collateral quality improves, the effects of previous excesses are likely to continue at least through 2008," the IMF said.

While potential losses appeared manageable, and banks are well capitalized to weather more severe stress, the IMF cited considerable uncertainty regarding the magnitude and distribution of losses stemming from the turmoil in credit markets and their possible impact on broader financial stability.

Reflecting a weakening in credit discipline that emerged along with the growth in credit, the IMF said private sector borrowers in certain emerging markets were adopting relatively risky strategies to raise financing, thus increasing their exposure to volatility.

The IMF noted that in some countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, for instance, banks were increasingly using capital market financing to help finance credit growth.

"Banks that rely predominantly on bond financing are more vulnerable to a sudden drop in demand for bonds—either due to a rise in domestic loan defaults or an increase in global risk aversion—triggering funding difficulties for the banks," the IMF said.

Lower-rated banks are at risk if appetite from international investors suddenly declines, potentially raising the systemic risks for some banking systems, it stressed.

International banks are often unwilling to lend to such banks through the interbank market, owing to the difficulty in assessing their true financial condition. But these same banks can still issue international bonds, though the risk is reflected in wider spreads, the Fund explained.

The IMF said governments must thus ensure that such vulnerabilities would not build to more systemic levels.

In addition to currency risk, the IMF said emerging markets had also grown more vulnerable to a rise in volatility.

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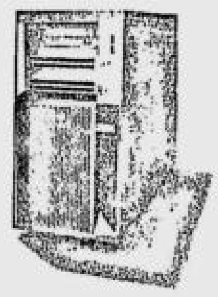
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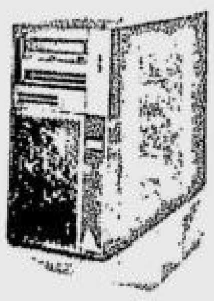
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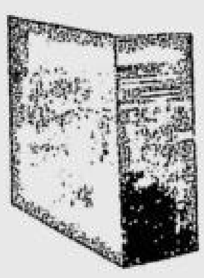
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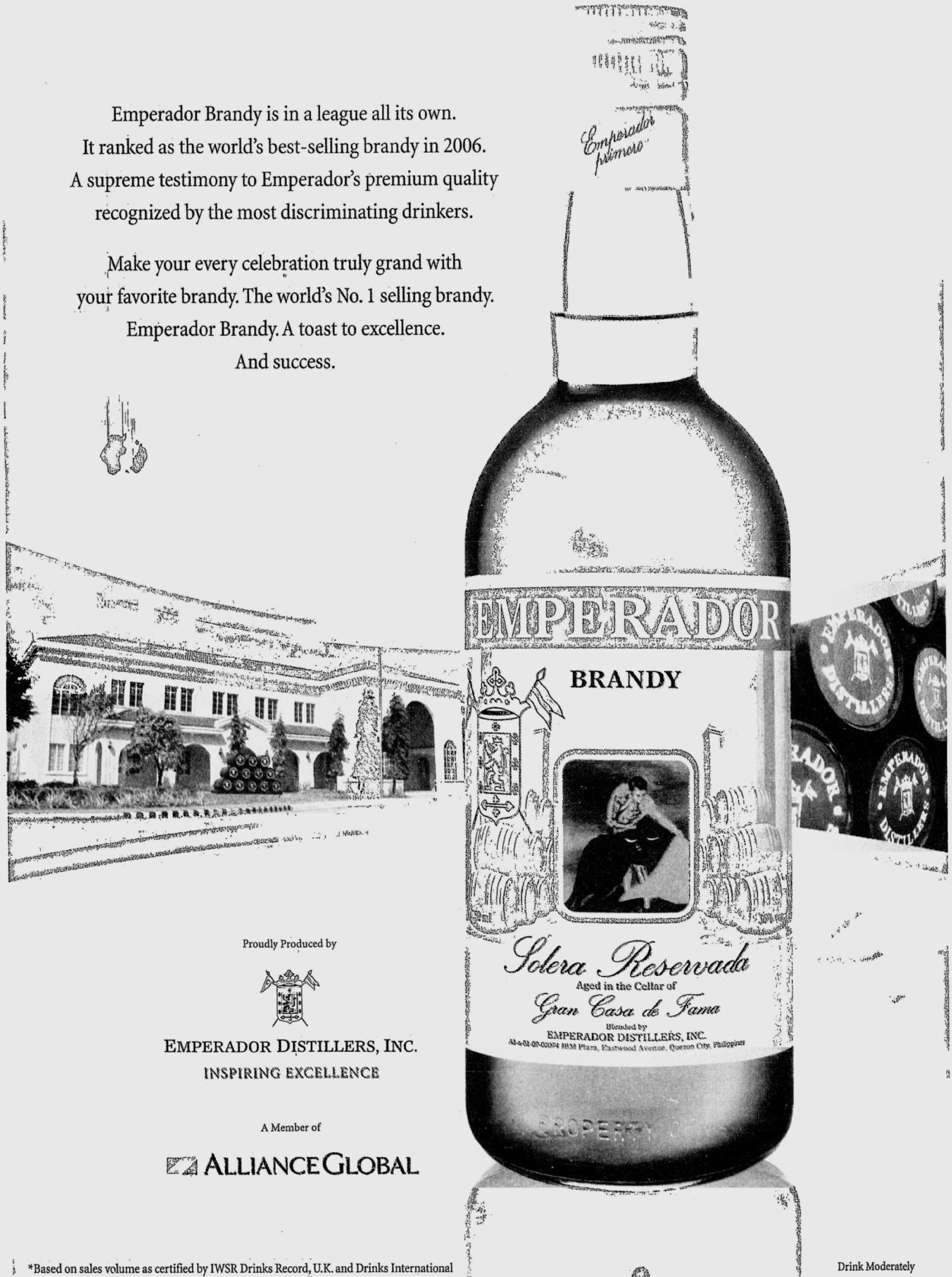
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IN THIS ISSUE
A simple stress test /C3

Gentle care for baby skin

By Vangie Baga-Reyes

The soft, smooth young complexion that adults envy also needs the right products to stay that way

BABY SKIN MAY always seem soft and smooth. But it is also extremely sensitive, vulnerable to dryness and irritation.

A recent clinical assessment of infant skin in the United States found that more that 60 percent of babies tested had clinically visible dry skin.

Frequent bathing can remove the natural oils of baby skin leaving it dry and cracked. The use of strong laundry detergent for baby clothes can cause itchiness or inflammation of the skin.

Sometimes the problem arises because parents think adult products they use will also be good for their little ones.

"A child is not a small adult," said pediatric dermatologist Donna Leelin-Sarrosa. "Every pediatrician knows that significant anatomic and physiologic differences exist between children and adults. Structurally, infant skin is thinner... and its components are likewise decreased in number.

"The differences place the infant at increased risk of skin damage, percutaneous (skin-absorbed) infection and toxicity from [the external application of some] agents."

JOHNSON'S Baby Soothing Naturals Moisture Rich Wash and Nourishing Lotion with olive-leaf extract and vitamin E

To help parents protect baby skin right from infancy, Johnson's, a pioneer in research on baby skin with over 100 years of experience in developing gentle products for youngsters, introduced recently Johnson's Baby Soothing Naturals.

It combines the mildness of Johnson's products with the healing power of nature.

For baby's bath, there is Johnson's Baby Soothing Naturals Moisture Rich Wash that helps restore lost moisture. This contains the No More Tears formula and is as gentle as pure water.

MOMS and their Johnson's babies: Johnson's Baby brand manager Via Abaño and daughter Amelie, Lexi Shultze Berenguer-Testa and little Alba, Marta Araneta and baby Tamara, and Sheila Carlos and son Enzo

Then, there is the Johnson's Baby Soothing Naturals Nourishing Lotion that soothes and helps baby skin retain moisture for 24 hours.

Both have Johnson's signature mild, fresh and natural scent. The products have been clinically proven to relieve babies' dry skin and they work for all skin types.

"The products have been developed with pediatricians and clinically tested by dermatologists," said brand manager Via Abaño. "Johnson's Baby Soothing Naturals is formulated with a proprietary blend of vitamin E, olive-leaf extract, minerals and essential amino acids to help care for babies' developing skin."

While most products available today contain only one form of vitamin E, the Soothing Naturals has all four types: alpha, beta, delta and gamma tocopherol. They, said Abaño, could protect the skin and neutralize harmful free radicals in the environment.

The olive-leaf extract has been used since ancient times for its antioxidant properties giving it the ability to help fight disease-causing free radicals. It also promotes skin elasticity.

The combination of minerals and essential amino acids in the new product plays an important part in skin metabolism and water balance.

"We know there are already a lot of products that have components like vitamin E but Soothing Naturals is the only product that has all the three features," Abaño said.

Prevention

Parents should not wait until signs of dryness appear on baby's skin before they begin to moisturize. Prevention is key.

While moisturizers may be applied any time of the day, parents must immediately moisturize baby's skin right after a bath while the skin is still moist. This traps water in the skin, replaces any normal oil lost, and provides lubrication to the skin.

Bathing with gentle baby wash and applying lotion on young skin are essential to keep their skin in perfect condition.

Johnson's Soothing Naturals was simultaneously launched only recently in Southeast Asian countries, although it has been available in the United States and Europe since last year.

Abaño said the Soothing Naturals' lotion cost more than its other products already in the market "because the ingredients are very premium."

She said, "The wash and lotion can be used from infancy up to two years old and even beyond if the child continues to have skin problems. The use of the products can continue with no harmful effects."

Even adults may like the new Johnson's line.

Abaño said the lotion, for instance, could appeal to women who normally liked something mild and nicely scented. "And they can immediately feel the effect of the moisturizer on their skin," she said.

The baby wash and lotion are both available in 250-ml bottles. The lotion costs P170; wash, P165. Until November, they are exclusively available at all Watson's outlets. After that, they will be available in major supermarkets.

Breastfeeding is good for mothers, too

BREASTFEEDING'S superior nutritional benefits have been scientifically proven.

Mother's milk helps promote the optimal brain, psychomotor and emotional development of a child.

But what most mothers do not know is that, aside from its unsurpassed nutritional advantage for the baby, breastfeeding offers remarkable "side benefits" for mothers, especially working women.

Suzi Entrata-Abrera, host of the television show "Unang Hirit," can personally attest to the amazing benefits of breastfeeding.

The proud mother of three girls, Leona (4), Jade (3) and 15-month-old Nella, Abrera says despite her busy schedule that also includes event hosting, guest appearances, and filming of commercials, she breastfed all three girls.

"It's a challenge to continue breastfeeding while you're working full-time, but it's manageable when you make time for it and pre-plan. That's how I successfully breastfed all my babies," she says.

Abrera says, to make the most of the breastfeeding experience, a woman has to eat the right food. She says her diet helped her maintain a good nutritional status and shape.

"Imagine, every two years I was giving birth, so it was really important that I was healthy and had the nutrients I needed. When you're pregnant and when you breastfeed, you're nutritional requirement is higher, so you really have to practice proper nutrition," she says.

Abrera believes nursing mothers should keep themselves physically active to stay healthy. To make sure they get all the nutrition they need, they should have a well-balanced diet and take a milk supplement specially formulated for breastfeeding women so they get all the vitamins and minerals needed to produce nutrient-rich milk.

SUZI Entrata-Abrera and youngest daughter Nella

But Abrera found out that breastfeeding also meant personal gains for her.

She says breastfeeding helped her shed extra weight fast. After only three months of breastfeeding she was able to wear her usual clothes.

"When you're breastfeeding, you burn about 300-500 calories. That's like an hour on the treadmill. This may not work for everyone, but for a high percentage of women who breastfeed, it does," Abrera says.

She adds that she breastfed her youngest for a year and lost extra weight quickly. She is also lighter now than when she started having babies.

Abrera says breastfeeding mothers also get more sleep as they do not have to get up to prepare milk for their baby. "Breast milk is always ready for your baby," she points out.

Abrera says breastfeeding provides the best bonding experience. By breastfeeding, a mother has to focus on the child and temporarily forgets other distractions. This makes her more attuned to the baby's needs.

Many mothers like Abrera who have successfully breastfed have found the experience so positive that they have become advocates. She says, "I know that breastfeeding is 90-percent mental and only 10-percent physical that's why I really go out of my way to provide encouragement. Support is very important to breastfeeding moms."

She says her family's support was also a great help when she was breastfeeding. "Breastfeeding is not as easy as others think. I'm thankful my husband is very supportive, my mom, and even my in-laws are supportive. Add to that, it helps a lot to have very trustworthy and dependable *yayas*. These are people we can really count on when it comes to taking care of our kids."

For Abrera, the benefits of breastfeeding far outweigh the difficulties. "Breastfeeding is giving your child the best nourishment. It's also discovering a lot of great things about yourself as a woman, about your baby and the people who care about you. So just keep at it, and continue breastfeeding for as long as you can."

Do Your Looks Need An Upgrade?

In the age of computers, hi-tech gadgets and WIFI, new breakthroughs have started to emerge. You often upgrade your computer, but upgrading your looks? Well you'd be surprised. With the latest technological advancements in skincare, it is a definite possibility. With these new modern devices for the skin, being more attractive is just a few zaps away.

The system: **LightCure Acne Therapy.** A painless, non-surgical treatment that can treat all types of acne.
The guarantee: Pimple-free clear skin.
The process: The emission of exact wavelengths of light is used for the complete elimination of the acne bacteria at the source.

LightCure Acne Therapy

The system: **Diamond Peel.** A non-invasive way of removing the build-up of debris, dead cells, marks and other flaws on the skin.
The guarantee: No more acne scars, dark spots and blemishes.
The process: A diamond dust-coated wand is used to gently scrub off all the dead cells, surface dirt and build-up on the skin's topmost layer.

Diamond Peel
Shi Zen D-Tox

The system: **Shi Zen D-Tox.** An intensive, relaxing facial that destresses while treating the skin.
The guarantee: Refreshed, younger-looking skin cleared of impurities.
The process: Powerful ingredients like a detoxifying facial mask are used on the skin using Shiatsu massage techniques to aid in relaxation.

The system: **ReFirme.** An extremely popular non-invasive skincare treatment which redefines the concept of the "non-surgical facelift."
The guarantee: Firmer, tighter skin. No more sags and droops.
The process: No needles, surgery, scars or sedation. Just a 45-minute, no-hassle, no-downtime machine treatment.

The system: **Advanced Lasertone.** The non-surgical wrinkle and line eraser.
The guarantee: Fine lines and wrinkles are significantly diminished.
The process: It uses a machine treatment to safely and effectively smoothen out those age signs.

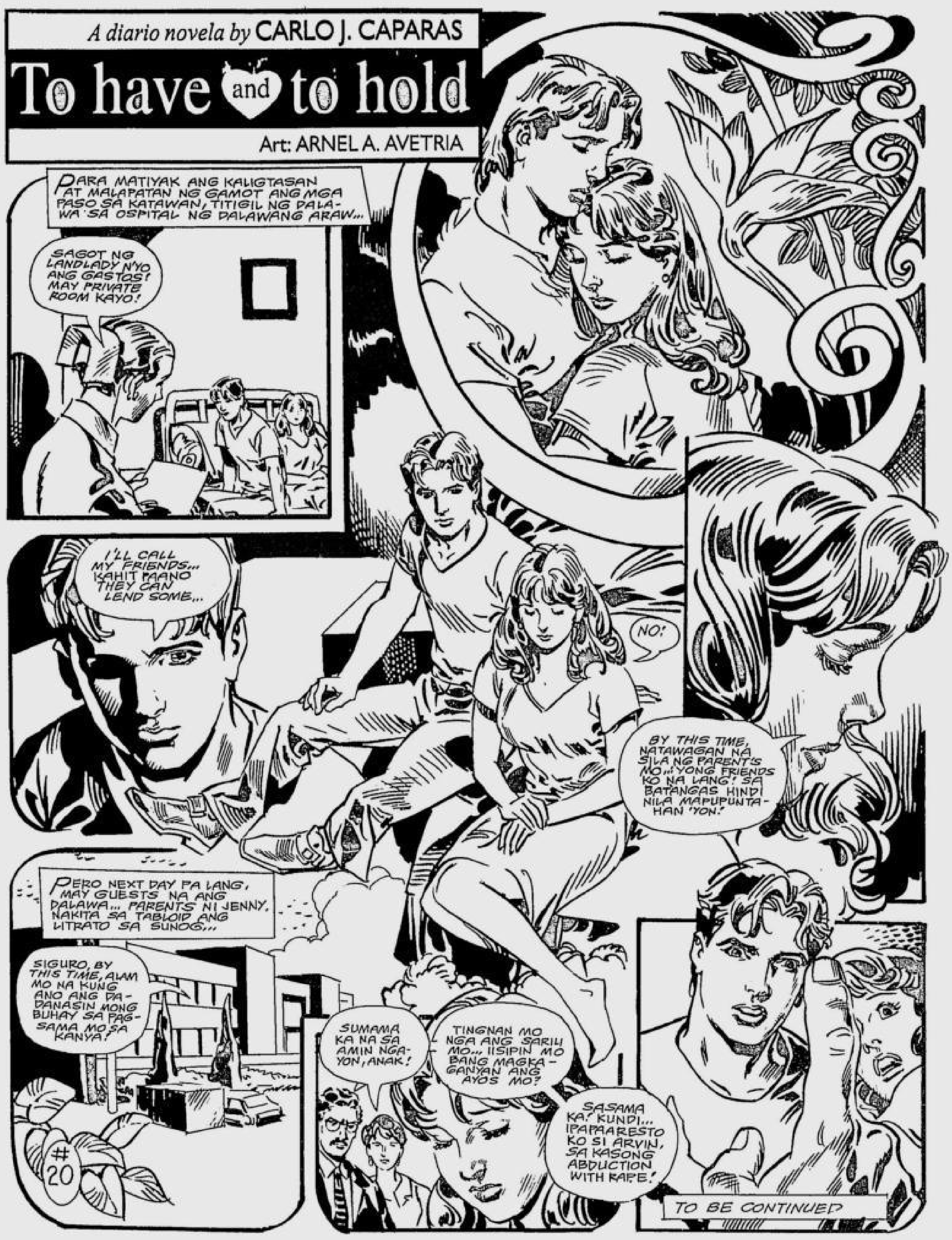
Advanced Lasertone

All of these technological breakthroughs are available at the Facial Care FOR MEN Center.
For a free consultation, call 813-7959.

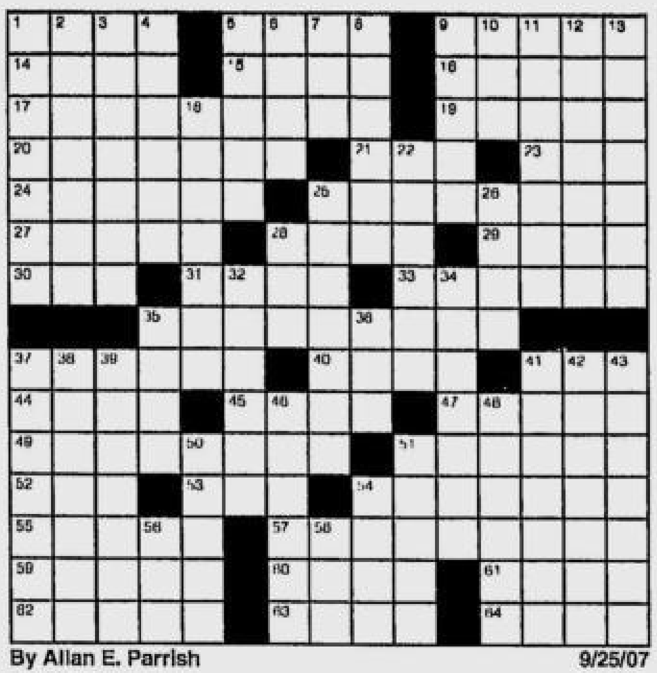
A *diario novela by* CARLO J. CAPARAS

To have and to hold

Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA


PARA MATIYAK ANG KALIGTASAN AT MALAPATAN NG GAMOT ANG MGA PASO SA KATAWAN, TITIGIL NG DALAWA SA OSPITAL NG DALAWANG ARAW...
SAGOT NG LANDLADY N'YO ANG GASTOS! MAY PRIVATE ROOM KAYO!
I'LL CALL MY FRIENDS... KAHIT PAANO THEY CAN LEND SOME...
NO!
BY THIS TIME, NATAWAGAN NA SILA NG PARENT'S MO...'YONG FRIENDS KO NA LANG! SA BATANGAS HINDI NILA MAPUPUNTAHAN 'YON!
PERO NEXT DAY PA LANG, MAY GUESTS NA ANG DALAWA... PARENTS NI JENNY, NAKITA SA TABLOID ANG LITRATO SA SUNOG...
SIGURO, BY THIS TIME, ALAM MO NA KUNG ANO ANG DADANASIN MONG BUHAY SA PAGSAMA MO SA KANYA!
SUMAMA KA NA SA AMIN NGAYON, ANAK!
TINGNAN MO NGA ANG SARILI MO... IISIPIN MO BANG MAGKAGANYAN ANG AYOS MO?
SASAMA KA! KUNDI... IPAPAARESTO KO SI ARVIN, SA KASONG ABDUCTION WITH RAPE!
#20
TO BE CONTINUED

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Allan E. Parrish
Mentor, OH

9/25/07

ACROSS
1 Clay cooking pot
5 Cuzco's land
9 Eyeglasses, casually
14 Revolutionary Trotsky
15 Ostrich kin
16 __ Park, NJ
17 Jack Ewing on "Dallas"
19 Floundering
20 Vocal refrain
21 Pol's provider
23 Bobbsey twin
24 Burles
25 Crew member
27 Reagan cabinet member
28 Indigenous Japanese
29 Raw minerals
30 Byrnes or Hall
31 People flicks
33 Actor Cesar
35 Chester Gould creation
37 Good name
40 Alleviate
41 Addenda to letters
44 Gardner and others
45 Flex
47 Playing marble
49 Vessel repair location
51 Talk sharply to
52 Sort
53 Before now
54 Clothes changers
55 "Girlfriend" singer Lavigne
57 Denim alternative
59 Back-comb
60 German river
61 Norwegian capital
62 Sen. Kefauver
63 Makes a statement
64 Depilatory brand

DOWN
1 Antiquated
2 Erudite
3 Determined the position of
4 Foot-leg connections
5 Sounds from the belfry
6 Thompson or Lazarus
7 Massage
8 Annual golf tourney
9 Audible kiss
10 Indulged one
11 Catch in a net
12 Charwoman
13 Nameless scoundrel
18 Welsh dish
22 Line of Hondas
25 Inflate
26 Comfy
28 Fine, in NASA-speak
32 Cold pack
34 Maritime
35 Twilight time
36 Far out, man!
37 Branch out
38 Develops over time
39 Out-of-control collector
41 Native American Indian child
42 Shake up
43 Lay-up's relative
46 Wears away
48 Unit of volume
50 Some locks
51 Land __ alive!
54 Frozen dessert chain
56 Expert follower?
58 End of a fib or spat

Monday's Puzzle Solved

W	A	D	I	■	T	A	B	■	S	P	I	R	A	L
A	M	E	N	■	R	A	E	■	U	R	S	U	L	A
W	I	N	G	D	I	N	G	■	B	O	O	H	O	O
A	S	T	O	U	N	D	■	A	O	L	■	R	E	S
■	■	■	T	R	I	P	■	T	R	O	T	■	■	■
J	E	T	S	E	T	■	H	O	N	G	K	O	N	G
A	C	U	■	S	Y	R	U	P	S	■	O	D	O	R
D	O	R	I	S	■	U	R	I	■	A	S	I	D	O
E	N	O	S	■	S	N	O	C	A	T	■	S	T	U
D	O	W	N	T	O	W	N	■	P	O	P	T	O	P
■	■	■	T	A	P	A	■	O	O	N	A	■	■	■
E	B	B	■	T	H	Y	■	P	L	A	C	E	B	O
M	A	I	T	A	I	■	P	E	L	L	M	E	L	L
M	A	D	A	M	E	■	B	R	O	■	A	R	I	D
A	L	E	X	I	S	■	S	A	S	■	N	O	P	E

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9/25/07

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

2				5	1			6
	8		6				9	
	9						4	
7				1			3	
6				4				8
	4			7				2
	3						1	
	2				5		7	
5			7	8				4

Difficulty Level ★★

9/25

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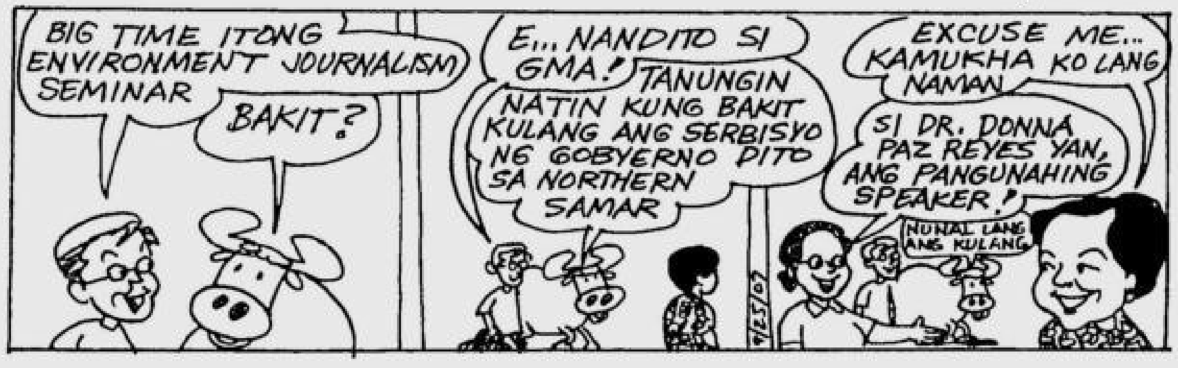
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


BIG TIME ITONG ENVIRONMENT JOURNALISM SEMINAR
BAKIT?
E... NANDITO SI GMA!
TANUNGIN NATIN KUNG BAKIT KULANG ANG SERBISYO NG GOBYERNO DITO SA NORTHERN SAMAR
EXCUSE ME... KAMUKHA KO LANG NAMAN
SI DR. DONNA PAZ REYES YAN, ANG PANGUNAHING SPEAKER!
NUNAL LANG ANG KULANG
9/25/07

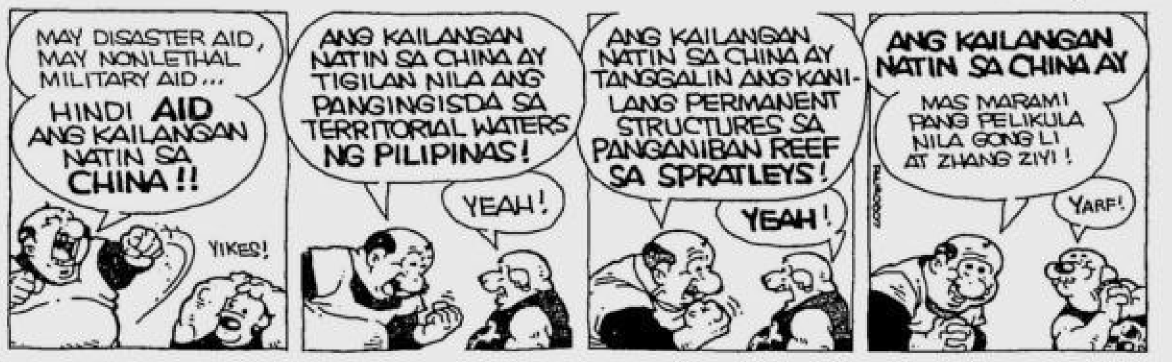
Answer to previous puzzle

6	5	8	7	4	9	2	1	3
7	2	1	8	3	5	6	4	9
4	3	9	1	6	2	7	8	5
2	8	3	5	1	7	9	6	4
1	9	4	6	2	3	8	5	7
5	7	6	4	9	8	1	3	2
8	4	5	9	7	6	3	2	1
9	6	2	3	5	1	4	7	8
3	1	7	2	8	4	5	9	6

Difficulty Level ★

9/24

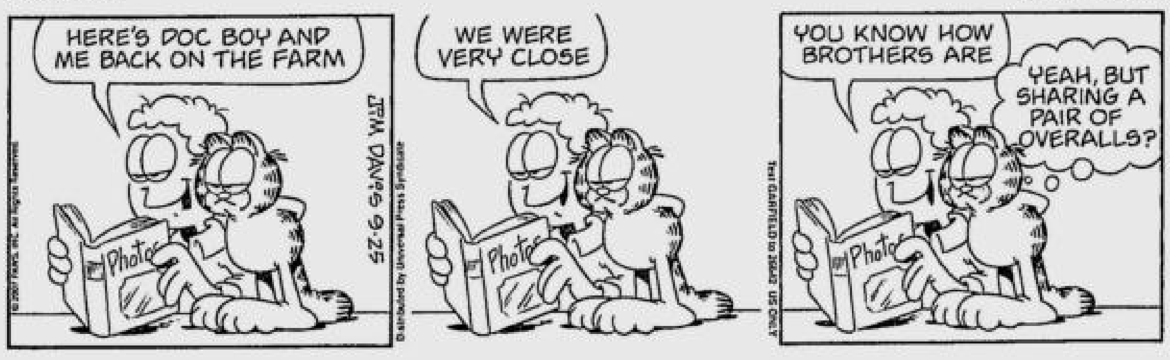
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


MAY DISASTER AID, MAY NONLETHAL MILITARY AID...
HINDI AID ANG KAILANGAN NATIN SA CHINA!!
YIKES!
ANG KAILANGAN NATIN SA CHINA AY TIGILAN NILA ANG PANGINGISDA SA TERRITORIAL WATERS NG PILIPINAS!
YEAH!
ANG KAILANGAN NATIN SA CHINA AY TANGGALIN ANG KANILANG PERMANENT STRUCTURES SA PANGANIBAN REEF SA SPRATLEYS!
YEAH!
ANG KAILANGAN NATIN SA CHINA AY
MAS MARAMI PANG PELIKULA NILA GONG LI AT ZHANG ZIYI!
YARF!

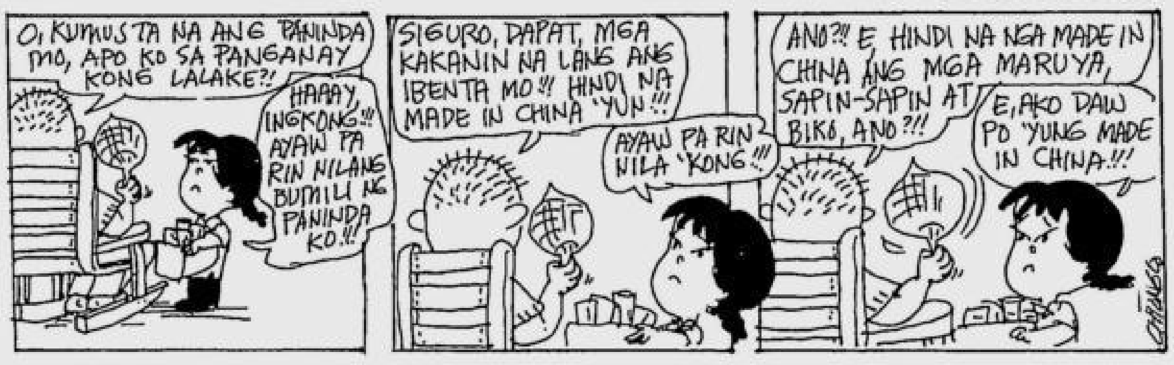
HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS


HERE'S DOC BOY AND ME BACK ON THE FARM
JIM DAVIS 9-25
Photos
WE WERE VERY CLOSE
YOU KNOW HOW BROTHERS ARE
YEAH, BUT SHARING A PAIR OF OVERALLS?

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


O, KUMUSTA NA ANG PANINDA MO, APO KO SA PANGANAY KONG LALAKE?!
HAAAY, INGKONG!!! AYAW PA RIN NILANG BUMILI NG PANINDA KO!!!
SIGURO, DAPAT, MGA KAKANIN NA LANG ANG IBENTA MO!!! HINDI NA MADE IN CHINA 'YUN!!!
AYAW PA RIN NILA 'KONG!!!
ANO?!! E HINDI NA NGA MADE IN CHINA ANG MGA MARUYA, SAPIN-SAPIN AT BIKO, ANO?!!
E, AKO DAW PO 'YUNG MADE IN CHINA!!!
CHIONGLO

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are warm and charming with highly developed social skills. Love and affection are important to you. However, your success comes from your ability to apply persevering self-discipline to develop your potential. (This balances your love of pleasure and play!) In your later years, you become surprisingly daring. In the year ahead, you will learn something extremely valuable.

Birthdate of: Will Smith, actor; Catherine Zeta-Jones, actress; Scottie Pippen, basketball player.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You can feel the buildup of tension with partners and close friends today because tomorrow's Full Moon is soon approaching. And it's the only Full Moon in your sign! (Yikes.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Be patient with coworkers. A buildup of tension before the peak of a Full Moon always exists, and today is that day. Therefore, don't push the river. Easy does it.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You might feel pulled between the demands of friends and groups versus the demands of children or a romantic partner. You can't please everyone. Therefore, just please yourself.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You're caught in the classic dilemma between home and family versus your career and your external world. If you focus on one, the other suffers. (Oh well. That's life.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Today is a mildly accident-prone day because of the increasing tension building up before tomorrow's Full Moon. Be extra aware when driving, walking or jogging.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Today you might feel tension about shared property, debt, taxes and the responsibility you have to others. However, by Friday this will be gone. Just hang in there.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Tomorrow the Full Moon is in Aries, which is directly opposite your sign. Today, as that Full Moon builds up, you'll feel increasing tension dealing with partners and close friends. Just be patient.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): It's perfectly normal if you feel vaguely restless today. It's the buildup before tomorrow's Full Moon. After it peaks, you'll be calm again.

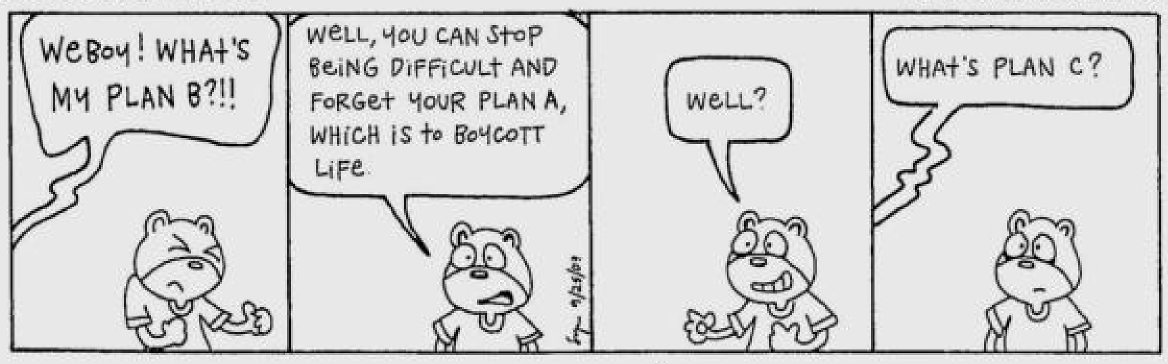
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You can't please everyone all the time. Therefore, don't even try. Just handle things one at a time in the next few days, because you're dealing with a Full Moon. (You know the drill.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Be patient with family members, parents and bosses today. You feel pulled in several directions, but you only have two hands and 24 hours. This week gets better as it wears on.

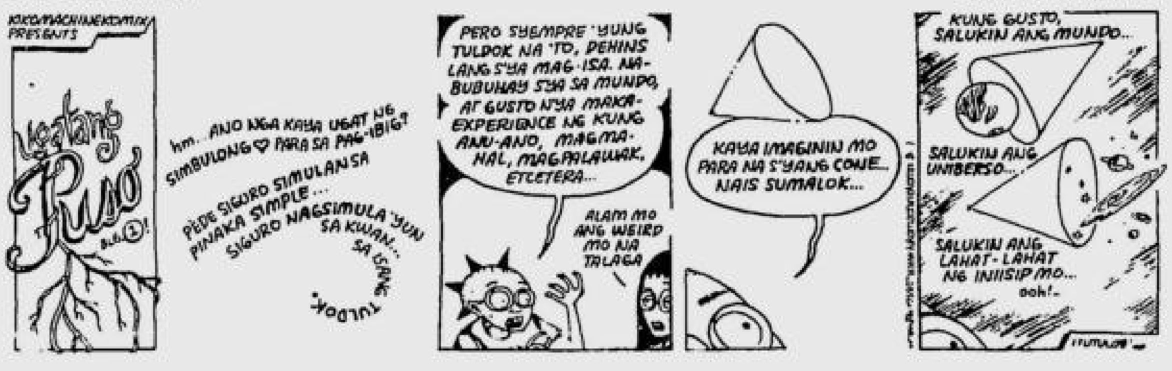
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Minor breakages and misunderstandings are possible today because of the buildup of tension before tomorrow's Full Moon. Just take it easy and slow down.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Guard against impulse-buying and hasty decisions concerning cash flow or your money scene. Tomorrow's Full Moon could affect your financial judgment.

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WeBoy! WHAT'S MY PLAN B?!!
WELL, YOU CAN STOP BEING DIFFICULT AND FORGET YOUR PLAN A, WHICH IS TO BOYCOTT LIFE.
WELL?
WHAT'S PLAN C?

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


KIKOMACHINEKOMIX PRESENTS
Ugatang Puso
hm... ANO NGA KAYA UGAT NG SIMBULONG♡ PARA SA PAG-IBIG?
PEDE SIGURO SIMULAN SA PINAKA SIMPLE...
SIGURO NAGSIMULA 'YUN SA KWAN... SA ISANG TULDOK.
PERO SYEMPRE 'YUNG TULDOK NA 'TO, DEHINS LANG S'YA MAG-ISA. NABUBUHAY S'YA SA MUNDO, AT GUSTO N'YA MAKAEXPERIENCE NG KUNG ANU-ANO, MAGMAHAL, MAGPALAWAK, ETCETERA...
ALAM MO ANG WEIRD MO NA TALAGA
KAYA IMAGININ MO PARA NA S'YANG CONE... NAIS SUMALOK...
KUNG GUSTO, SALUKIN ANG MUNDO...
SALUKIN ANG UNIBERSO...
SALUKIN ANG LAHAT-LAHAT NG INIISIP MO...
ooh!..

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

Get a grip

WHEN YOU ARE DOING NOTHING, feeling nothing, finding yourself at your wit's end, and snapping at anyone or anything that comes your way, it is time to get a grip on yourself.

Be aware

Stress can come from pressure (internal and external), fear, guilt, anxiety, etc. Most people believe they are operating normally, acting out their life as though stress is an ordinary part of it.

But living on stress regularly, if unmanaged, can sooner or later take its heavy toll on your health and eventually compromise your lifestyle. So, if you want to know where you are, take this simple test.

Your self-discovery must take into account the stress level under which you operate. Look inside yourself. Consider the following stress-inducing situations to assess your stress levels.

1. Are you feeling inadequate at work?
2. Are you feeling inadequate in your love life?
3. Do you compare yourself unfavorably with your peers?
4. Are you dissatisfied with your marriage?
5. Are you having cash flow problems?
6. Are you in danger of losing your job?
7. Are you feeling bored?
8. Are you desperately afraid of something?
9. Have you made a promise you cannot fulfill?
10. Do you feel stuck in a stress cycle?

Dissect the causes of stress in your life and you will come to recognize your level of stress tolerance. Different people have different levels of tolerance.

The causes of all stress can be grouped into three:

1. People in your work, or none.
2. External life-changing events.
3. Lifestyle-related issues that cause you to be psychologically pressured.

Take charge

Coping with pressure may not be easy but it can be done.

Here are six sure ways:

1. Try to slow down. Whatever your pace, slow things down a notch or two. If you operate on fifth gear, then take it down to third gear. This you can do by promising yourself—not your doctor, husband/wife or children, but yourself.
2. Try to calm your mind. Practice slow breathing.
3. List down all the positives in your life. Do not dwell on the negatives.
4. Stop telling yourself you are superman or superwoman. Everyone has a limit. In short, do not make yourself the dumping ground of everyone's problem. You cannot solve it for them. At least, not all the time.
5. Take a class in yoga.
6. Create powerful affirmations in your life.

Affirm

To affirm means to say "yes" to life. So grant yourself permission now. Do not hold yourself back. Instead, say to yourself the following:

"I am loved, respected, wealthy, successful, happy, joyful, fulfilled, centered, sexy, healthy…"

Relax now

1. Close your eyes. Squint them tightly. Release. Open your eyes. Inhale.
2. Open your mouth wide. Then form an O. Say, "oh." Say "ah." Exhale.
3. Place your palms flat against the wall. As hard as you can, push. Release your inner pain/pressure. Then take your arms off the wall.

QUIET!
STEPH/HB

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

4. Lie on your back. Hug a pillow.
5. Form a fetal position. Visualize yourself in your mother's womb. Remember how loved you were then.
6. Stretch your arms as wide as you can as though hugging a giant tree. Then say: "I am ready to embrace life now."

Love and light!

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime Licauco

ET is here

MANY BOOKS HAVE BEEN WRITten espousing the idea that extraterrestrials (ETs) have been with us for millions of years.

The most popular of these was "Chariots of the Gods" by Erik Von Daniken in 1968. Then came the book "We Are not the First" by Andrew Thomas.

Later, several books were written about people being abducted by aliens from outer space for experimental purposes. One of these was "The Interrupted Journey" by John G. Fuller. Another was "Communion" by Whitley Strieber.

Hollywood followed with the extremely popular movie "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" by Steven Spielberg.

Soon, die-hard believers of UFOs (unidentified flying object) formed themselves into societies and research groups to study these phenomena and exchange information. A new specialist began to appear in the lexicon of the English language, i.e. ufologist.

A few of these "specialists" were serious scientists but most were there just for the fun of it. Among the more serious researchers of the UFO phenomena is Dr. James H. Hurtak of the Academy of Future Science in Los Gatos, California.

He is the author of a very important prophetic book, "The Keys of Enoch," which was dictated to him by higher space intelligence in 1973. Many of the predictions contained in that book have become chilling realities.

Still, mainstream scientists remained nonchalant about the subject.

And the United States government has been very vocal in denying the reality of UFOs and ETs. It has also flatly denied covering up information about ET sightings, UFO crashes and encounters.

"No such thing. Pure imagination! Completely no evidence of their existence," etc.

3 types of encounters

Dr. Hynek classified human encounters with UFOs into three types. The first is called Close Encounter of the First Kind (CEI) where there are only distant sightings but no communication whatsoever.

The second is Close Encounter of the Secret Kind (CEII) where there are some forms of physical evidence, like burned bushes or trees, strong magnetic field, electrical disturbances in home appliances and street lights and the like. CEII's sometimes result in extraordinary healing of persons involved.

The third type is Close Encounter of the Third Kind (CEIII) where there is actual face-to-face contact or communication. Alien abductions are examples of this type of encounters.

In 1947, a UFO reportedly crashed in Roswell, New Mexico near a secret US Army camp. The US government denied any such incident happened despite sworn testimonies of ex-military officers who were involved in the cover-up.

According to the story that leaked out, the military found three ETs inside the crashed space ship. Two were dead but one was still alive.

The surviving ET was humanoid, greenish-grey in color, without any hair, had a big head and big black almond-shaped eyes.

The dead ETs were brought to a secret camp called Area 51, which the military has repeatedly denied ever existed, for autopsy.

The surviving creature knew every language spoken on earth and was extremely intelligent. It possessed technical knowledge so far advanced compared to what we had on earth.

Bargain

According to one source the ET bargained with its captors that, in exchange for saving its life, it would share their advanced technology with earth people. That was why after the capture, US technology advanced rapidly. The ET even taught Americans the secret of anti-gravity technology, according to one source.

In the '80s I met an American researcher named Scott Mandelker in San Francisco who wrote a doctoral thesis alleging that there were millions of ETs now living in the US. He later published his thesis in a book, "From Elsewhere: Being an ET in America." He even included a questionnaire in the book to find out if the reader was an ET or not.

How much of this information can be believed? I do not know. It is difficult to make any conclusion given scant and contradictory data.

We really have nothing to rely on except our gut feel or intuition. There is no hard evidence to prove the validity of the above stories.

My gut feel, although I cannot prove it, is that ETs are real. The crash in Roswell was real, the US government has been engaged in a big cover-up and I have absolutely no idea why it is doing this.

I believe aliens have been with us on earth for a long, long time already and they have been living like ordinary earthlings like us.

Dancing for fitness

GYM PLUS HEALTH AND FITness Center will have the last Dance Aero Circuit class 10-11 a.m. on Sept. 29.

The Dance Aero Circuit is an effective routine to tone the muscles and eliminate unwanted fat.

It is a group of dance activities performed in an area known as "the station" and executed to develop different components of physical fitness.

Aside from Dance Aero, Gym Plus also offers kickboxing, dance gymnastics, belly and ballroom dancing, taekwondo, aikido, aero kaebo, step bench, and yoga.

Gym Plus Health and Fitness Center is at 3/L, Starmall Building, Mandaluyong City. Call 7184059.

Winners sign up to become 'losers'

NEW SENATOR FRANCIS "CHIZ" Escudero and Philippine Long Distance Telephone company senior vice president Butch Jimenez have enrolled in the Omnivital Lymphatics Program at Institut Santre.

The special treatment course helps the lymphatic flow and cleansing process by removing harmful substances from the body thus improving the metabolic rate to allow more effective burning of fat.

Escudero and Jimenez, both recipients of the Ten Outstanding Young Men awards, hope the process will help them lose a lot of weight, inches and toxins.

The senator signed up for the program to prepare for a grueling election campaign schedule. He wanted to strengthen his immune system, remove harmful toxins from his body, and improve internal circulation and his digestive condition.

Jimenez, on the other hand, joined Santre's patented Omnivital regular program to lose fat and inches. At the end of a four-month regimen, he lost 20 pounds and more than 42 cm or 16.5 inches all over his body.

He later moved into the same Omnivital Lymphatics program as Escudero. Jimenez needed the program to de-stress.

The Institut Santre is at 22 Jupiter cor. Galaxy Streets, Bel-Air Village, Makati City (tel. 7595599, 0917-8195599; www.institutsantre.com).

Your Doctor Knows Best

Prof. Kenneth Hartigan-Go, MD, PhD

Question:

News regarding raids of pharmacies with counterfeit medicines have been in the papers and television. What are counterfeit medicines and what are the possible dangers associated with these?

Doctor Says…

Counterfeit medicines, as defined by the World Health Organization are medicines, which are deliberately and fraudulently mislabeled with respect to identity and/or source. These are medicines that are primarily produced and sold to deceptively imitate or copy the authentic drugs. Counterfeit medicines may:

- not contain the active drug ingredients
- contain insufficient quantity of the active ingredients
- have the wrong active ingredients or the wrong excipients/solvents
- be sold with inaccurate, incorrect or fake packaging
- contain harmful and toxic ingredients due to wrong manufacturing processes and/or due to sourcing contaminated chemicals

Counterfeiting is a worldwide problem, with approximately 5-10% of global medicines are counterfeit. There are countries where more than 50% of the drugs are counterfeits. Counterfeiting is more prevalent in developing countries like the Philippines. These are either manufactured locally or imported (smuggled) illegally into the country.

The progressively rising counterfeiting activities may be due to the increasing demand for cheaper drugs, the development of technologies that make it easier to counterfeit drugs, the ability to sell drugs directly to consumers due to illicit practices in some pharmacies or in unlicensed establishments, and the insufficient resources to implement local regulations and laws to counter these activities.

Counterfeit medicines may be cheaper than the authentic drug products but these are not equivalent in quality, safety and efficacy.

Counterfeit drugs may put the person at risk of unexpected adverse or toxic effects, allergic reactions, or worsening of the existing medical condition. The risk for death is real.

It is important to remember that counterfeit drugs may not contain the stated active drug ingredients. Instead, these may contain inert or inactive substances that do not provide the intended therapeutic actions of the drug to make the patient better. Counterfeit medications can also contain incorrect ingredients, improper dosages of the correct ingredients or hazardous ingredients that can harm the patients and may even cause death.

Consumers can protect themselves from the risks associated with counterfeit drugs by purchasing prescription and over-the-counter medications from licensed pharmacies. Everyone should vigilantly examine medications, paying attention to the presence of altered, tampered or unsealed containers and changes in the packaging of the product. Differences in the physical appearance of the product, taste or side effects experienced should alert patients to contact their physician, pharmacist or other healthcare professionals involved in giving them their medications. Counterfeiting is a serious crime and a public health emergency. Awareness and taking actions are the responsible options for any citizen. You may report suspected counterfeit medicines to the BFAD hotline numbers: 807-0725, 807-0721.

Prof. Go is a Faculty staff of Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health. He also is the Executive Director of The Zuellig Foundation.

This column is supported by AstraZeneca Philippines as part of its disease awareness campaign. This is not intended to replace the advice of a healthcare professional. Always consult your doctor.

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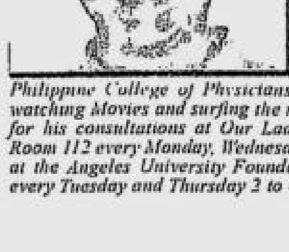
Take Charge Doc!

What are the causes of liver cancer?

Primary liver cancer occurs when liver cells begin to grow out of control forming a tumor (mass of malignant/ abnormally growing cells). It is believed that this is caused by exposure of these cells to certain insults that alters their growth pattern. Among these include: excessive alcohol intake (more than 10 ounces of wine, 24 ounces of beer or 3 ounces of 80-proof distilled spirits daily for men; and half of that for women); consuming food contaminated with fungi that produce aflatoxins (corn, soybeans and peanuts can be contaminated with such fungi); exposure to certain chemicals like vinyl chloride, thorium dioxide, arsenic and radium; and chronic hepatitis B and hepatitis C infection. Another form of liver cancer is metastatic liver cancer which actually started somewhere else in the body (e.g. colon, stomach, lung or breast) but later spread to the liver.



This week's answer to our feature question regarding the causes of liver cancer is courtesy of our accredited doctor in Pampanga, Dr. Joseph Aaron Clavio. Dr. Clavio obtained his medical degree at the University of Sto. Tomas where he also finished his residency training for Internal medicine and for Gastroenterology. He is a member of the Philippine Medical Association and a fellow of the Philippine College of Physicians. Dr. Clavio spends his free time watching Movies and surfing the net. MEDICard members may avail for his consultations at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Medical Center, Room 112 every Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9 am to 12 noon and at the Angeles University Foundation Medical Center, Room 103D every Tuesday and Thursday 2 to 4 in the afternoon.

Nicky

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

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OUR Queen for a Day, Rosemarie "Baby" Arenas, waits for her invitees.

THE OTHER hostess of the affair, Rep. Rachel Arenas, launches H.E.L.P.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo and Baby Arenas; (standing) Tereret Liboro, Daisy Payumo, Tessie Daza, Inday del Rosario and Nene Leonor

GMA7's Rod Cornejo with Johnny Litton, Benjie Yap, Fermin Reyes; (seated) Eddie Yap, Dellie Yap and Marivic Vasquez

SAUDI Arabia's Ambassador Saleh Al Ghamdi with Nena Casimiro and Alfonso Casimiro

Mother and daughter are out to Help

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using **Kodak** EasyShare system

THE GRAND LAUNCH OF HEALTH, Education, Livelihood Program, as in Help, a joint project of that attractive mother-and-daughter team, **Baby Arenas** and **Rachel**, plus the birthday celebration of Baby A, the ever generous, golden-hearted philanthropist, founder and chair of the Father Pio Lend a Hand Foundation, at the Mandarin Hotel was definitely the high point of the week's social calendar, dahlings.

The grand ballroom was decorated with long-stemmed red roses (Baby's favorite), *natch*, and draped in white silk that matched the elegant white table cloth.

The presidential table had touches of red, its centerpiece of red roses arranged differently from the others.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, in an elegant gold beaded evening gown with matching bag and shoes, was swamped by the *tres* chic invitees, *palanggas*.

Speaker **Jose de Venecia**, who really enjoyed the music, even sang parts of the songs. We overhead him telling the President how nice the music was, *palanggas*, from the fabulous **Jay Cayuca** and the world-class Madrigal Singer.

Tres visible was the mix of newly-elected and veteran members of Congress, *palanggas*.

As usual, the Mandarin rolled out the red carpet. The fantastic cuisine was downed with excellent red and white wines and Don Perignon champagne. Dessert was Baby's all-time favorite, "the special pudding with nuts and raisin with berries."

Naturellement, the talk of the evening was the mother-and-daughter team, how they tirelessly worked together for the good of the people, to make a difference in everyone's life whether rich or poor, both reaching out to others sincerely.

People were also whispering aloud if it was true that **Andrea Bocelli** was coming back. Well, only Baby can make another Bocelli magic come true in the Philippines, *palanggas*.

Rachel gave a short speech from the heart in flawless Tagalog and *après*, looking pretty and slim in her **Paul Cabral** Japanese brocade gown, sung "Beautiful Girl" beautifully with the Madrigals.

Our Queen for the Day, Baby, was in a red and white pure silk long gown with a floral design on the skirt.

When we left, more invitees from the province were still arriving, a bit late due to the heavy rains that night.

Power event

It was colorful in terms of the mix of invitees, the cocktails given by the exotic Fuego Hotels & Properties, the management group of the world-renowned Pearl Farm Beach Resort in Samal Island in Davao; the breathtaking world-class Taal Vista Hotel in Tagaytay City and the *tres* chic and exclusive Club Punta Fuego in Nasugbu Batangas.

The three resorts had the 2nd Corporation Cocktail at L'Incontro, Ristorante Italiano, in Reposo, Makati, dahlings. With a power event like this there just had to be loads of VIPs and bigwigs from Makati, *natch*.

Hosted by **Kathy Manuel**, corporate director for sales, the happening got rolling with the welcome address of COO *el muy simpatico* **Alfredo Roca**. It was followed by the AVP-operations **Juan Roca**'s introduction of the new GM for Club Punta Fuego, **Alfonso Fernandez-Corrales**; the new GM for Pearl Farm Beach Resort, **Mikel Villaverde**; and the new marketing communications manager for Fuego Hotels, **Mitch Garcia**, *palanggas*.

"This event was held to give property updates and to formally thank the top clients of the three properties some of which are from the country's leading companies and travel trade," explained Alfredo R.

Through the support of **Rene Barbier**, wines flowed and people had good food and fun at the 2nd Corporation Cocktail.

Hey, any of the three resorts will be a great way to escape our asphalt jungle, and chill. For info, do call 7501899, 7501895 or 7501897, or e-mail guests@fuegohotels.com. Visit www.fuegohotels.com.

Designing couple

They are young, vibrant and talented. Designer couple **Paolo** and **Sarah Castillo** opened their second super popular Isa Casa showroom in Serendra, *palanggas*.

Both of them come from *familles* of furniture exporters and their eye-catching pieces have already graced the store windows of the renowned Bloomingdales and hotels like the prestigious Four Seasons, no less, dahlings.

Even world-renowned furniture designer Palecek has taken an interest in the designs of these two achievers.

Checking out the new store, *moi* noticed that this pair had come up with exciting ways to use our local material. Who would have imagined bamboo and stone could look this good?

Well, *palanggas*, they have come up with beautiful bedroom and dining set designs that will look gorgeous in both sprawling residences and cozy condo units.

But their talent does not end there, dahlings. They can custom-design pieces according to your needs. Just let the couple's artistic juices flow and they will come up with a personalized solution.

Hotshots in the world of art and architecture, and other designers were all present and accounted for like Real Living magazine editor in chief **Rachel Medina**, architect and artist **Joven Ignacio**, artist **Poch Naval**, **Corrine Ching** of the I Love U fashion store, Shoko Lighting designer artist **Valen Valero**, and **Mary Ann Pulido**, *palanggas*.

MARILEN Guisande

SPEAKER Joe de Venecia

REP. Tisha Bonoan

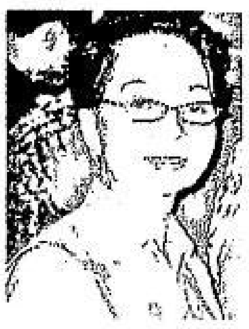
NINI Licaros with Fortune Ledesma; (seated) Patty Chiong, Vina Gaisberger and Barbara Cumagun

TEYET Pascual with Imelda Marcos, Fr. Boyd Sulpico, and Joanne Salgado of Jo-Lisa

ALICE Favila with Rep. Girlie Villarosa and Peter Favila

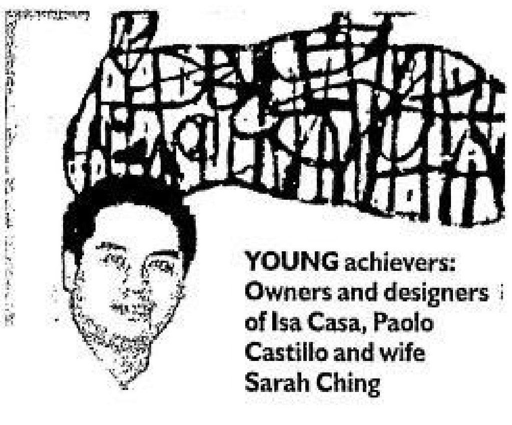
COUTURIER Paul Cabral and Andrea Revilla Ynares

MELLIE Romero A. and husband, businessman Louie Ablaza

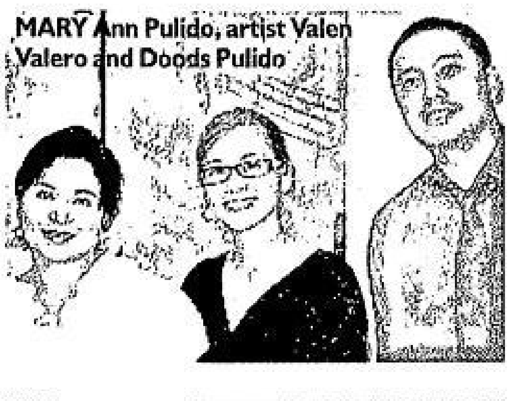


UNILEVER's Puring Sucgang

OWNERS Sarah Castillo, Robert and Pia Sycip, with Tommy Ching and Fr. Meehan



YOUNG achievers: Owners and designers of Isa Casa, Paolo Castillo and wife Sarah Ching



MARY Ann Pulido, artist Valen Valero and Doods Pulido

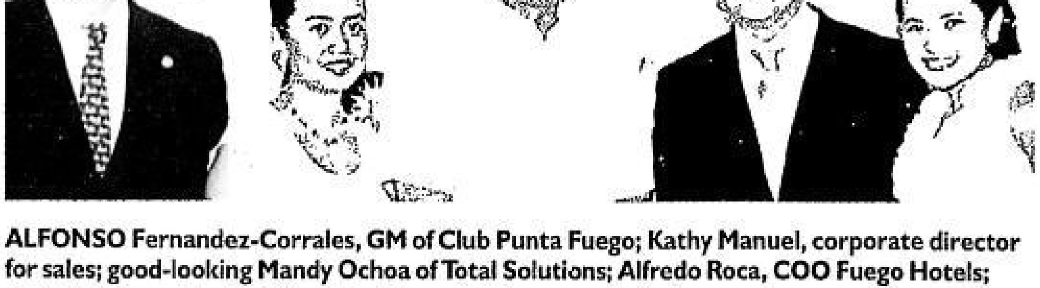
MALOU Camer

UNILEVER ladies Joji Macapagal and Rose Aquino

PHILIPPINE Ambassador to Mexico Antonio Lagdameo

MARIE and Gus Vallejo of Anscor Castro Travel Corp with Juan Roca, AVP-operations Fuego Hotels; and Mikel Villaverde, GM Pearl Farm Beach Resort

PEARL Farm senior sales manager Eileen Tuanio with Marlene Jante and Imelda Sietereales of Queenspoint Travel



ALFONSO Fernandez-Corrales, GM of Club Punta Fuego; Kathy Manuel, corporate director for sales; good-looking Mandy Ochoa of Total Solutions; Alfredo Roca, COO Fuego Hotels; and cyber smart pretty Mitch Garcia, marketing communications manager

ENTERTAINMENT

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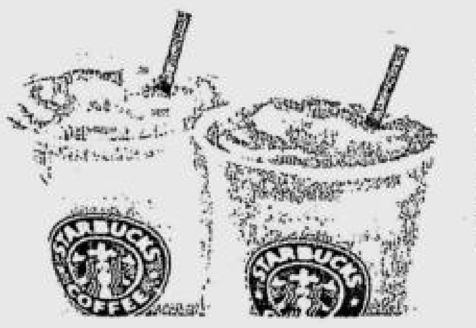

RASPBERRY BLACK CURRANT
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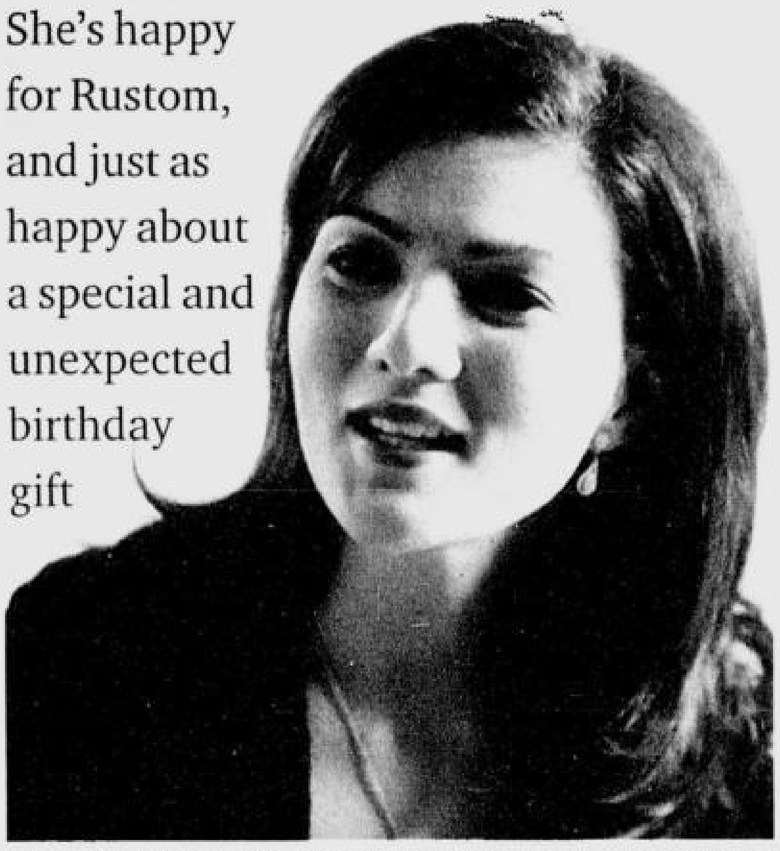
She's happy for Rustom, and just as happy about a special and unexpected birthday gift



ACTRESS-host is glad for her ex-husband's awards. ROMY HOMILLADA

Carmina's twin joys

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

HOST-ACTRESS CARMINA VILLARroel is in a daze.

She admits that her hectic work schedule—juggling the daily talk show "Sis" and nightly soap "Mga Mata ni Anghelita"—has left her spaced out.

"[Once] I got home from 'Anghelita' at 5 a.m. and woke up at 7 a.m. because my call time for 'Sis' was 8 a.m.," she relates. "Good thing, [co-hosts] Ate Janice and Gelli [de Belen] are there to cover for me when I feel like a zombie."

She's been so preoccupied that she didn't even know that ex-husband Rustom Padilla had tied for Best Actor with Mark Gil at the Gawad Urian last week.

"A guest on 'Sis' told me about it. I had been out of the loop," she explains. "I'd much rather tend to my kids than watch TV when I'm home *kasi*."

Lest it be misconstrued, she swiftly stresses that she's proud of Rustom's achievement.

"I'm glad for him. I've gotten over what happened [between us]. Since I'm happy with my life, I also want him to be happy with his. A Gawad Urian is such a big blessing."

Rustom, who has maintained cordial relations with his ex-wife, echoes the same sentiments: "It's clear that she's happy and that she wishes me happiness. Her children are so beautiful!"

Hands-on mom

Her 6-year-old twins by partner Zoren Legaspi are the main reasons that she's working so hard, Carmina points out.

No matter how busy, she's still a hands-on mom. "I bring Mavy and Cassy to school. Even if I lacked sleep the night before, I wake up early and have breakfast with them."

Constant communication is a must for her. "Even if I'm in a faraway location, I call them."

On the set of the series "Anghelita," which wraps up its run this week, she is often thinking of the kids.

"I see my daughter Cassy in [young costar] Kristal [Reyes]," Carmina says. "They're both sweet and affectionate."

Since she herself joined the biz at the tender age of 12, she feels for child stars like Kristal. "I often ask about her studies. I advise her to never give up schooling. I can be inquisitive. It's the TV host in me," she admits.

She's just as protective of her twins who've started doing TV ads, too. "Zoren and I are present on the set to make sure that the working conditions are okay. We don't want our kids to feel it's work. It's as if they're playing *lang*."

She affirms that she has a lot of things to be thankful for.

Last month, she received an unexpected birthday gift—a phone call from longtime crush Hollywood actor Josh Hartnett, who shot a movie in the South.

CARMINA'S/ D3

John and Shaina: Friends in love?

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

JOHN PRATS INSISTS THERE'S NOTHING more than friendship between him and **Shaina Magdayao**.

"Some people just put malice to our closeness. She's one of my best friends like **Toni Gonzaga** and **Nikki Gil**," he clarifies.

Are they friends in love or do they just love being friends?

Big crush

When **Sarah Geronimo** gets home from her successful US tour, she will start shooting a movie with **John Lloyd Cruz** under Viva Films and Star Cinema.

JOHN/ D2

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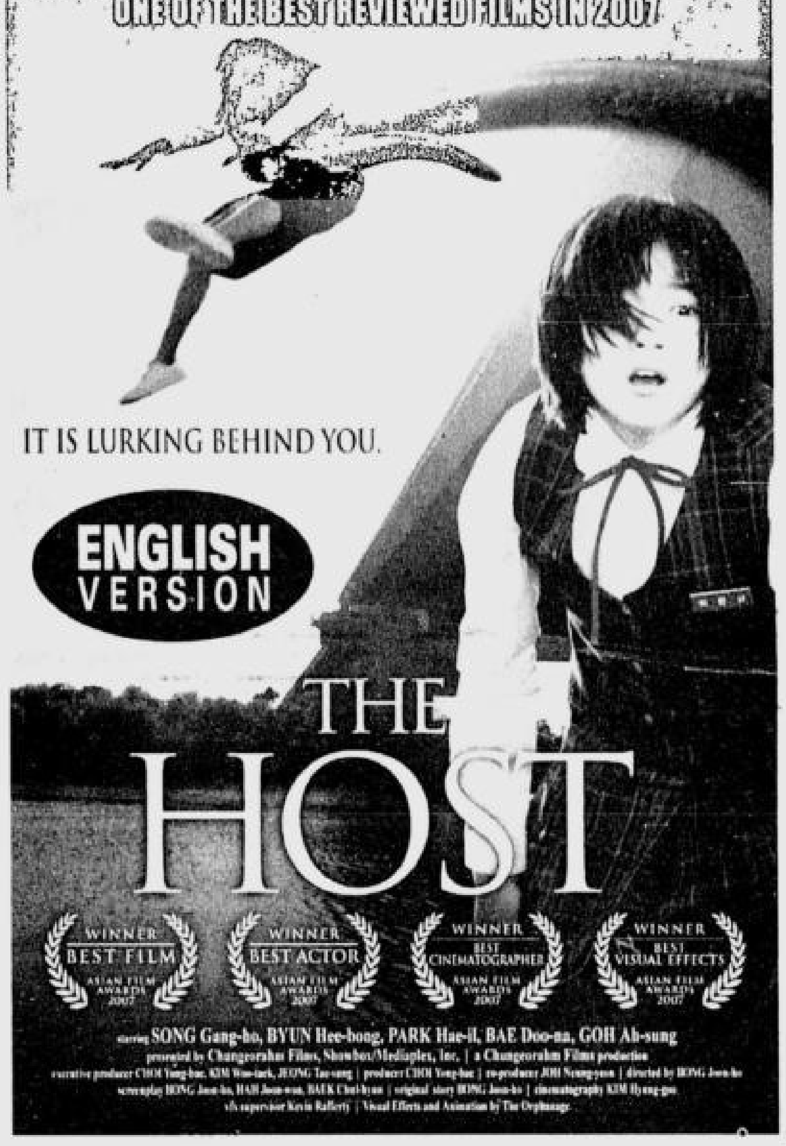

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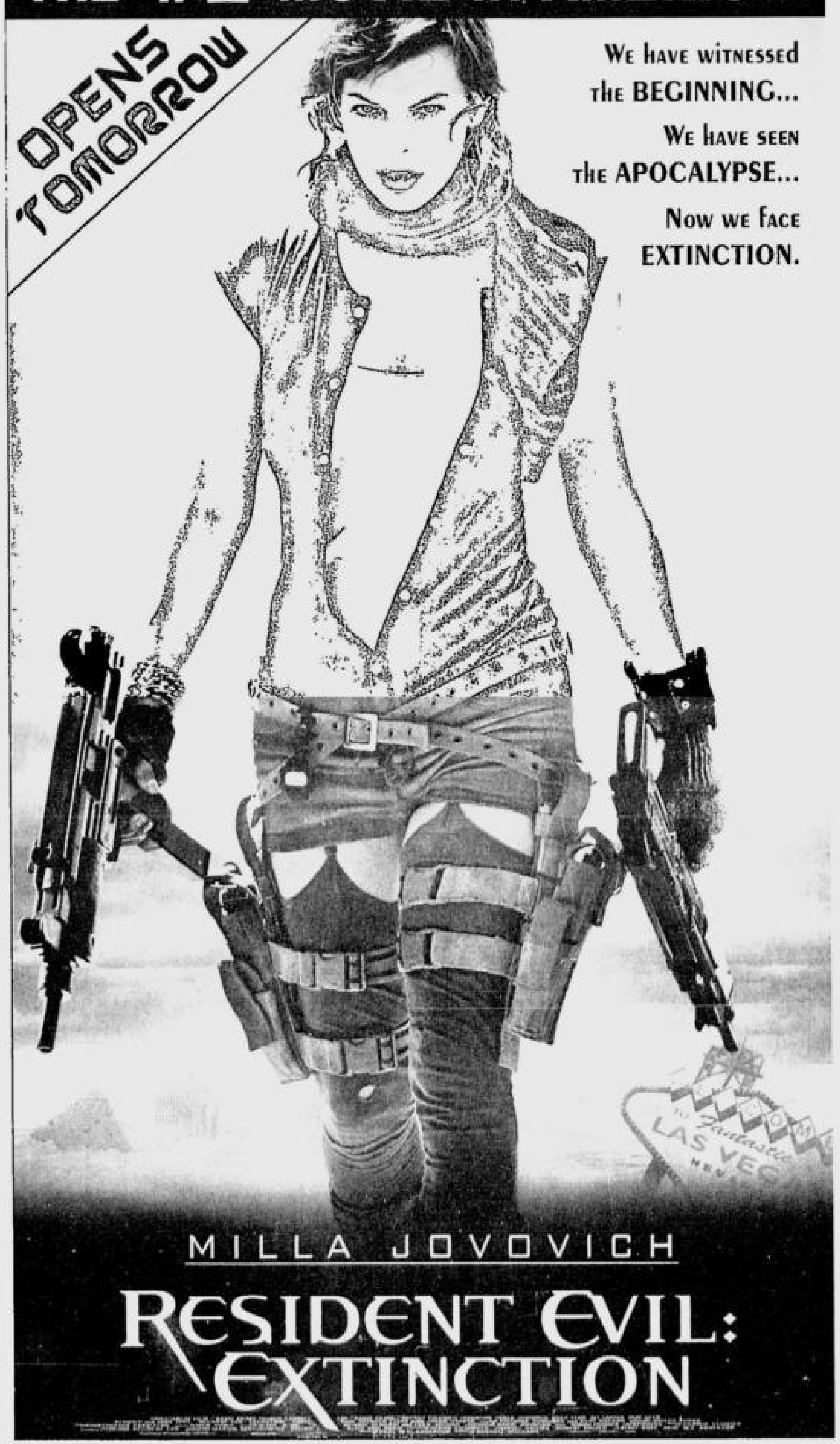

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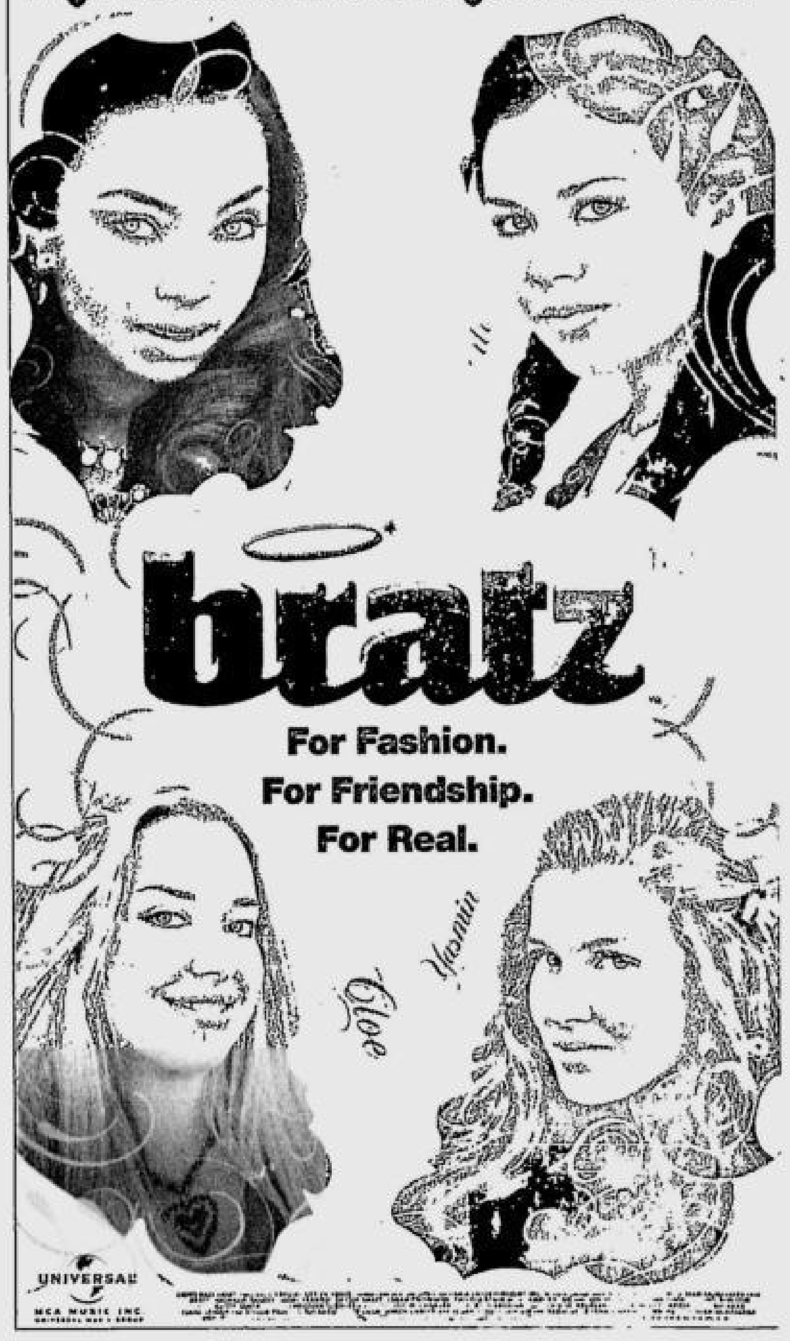

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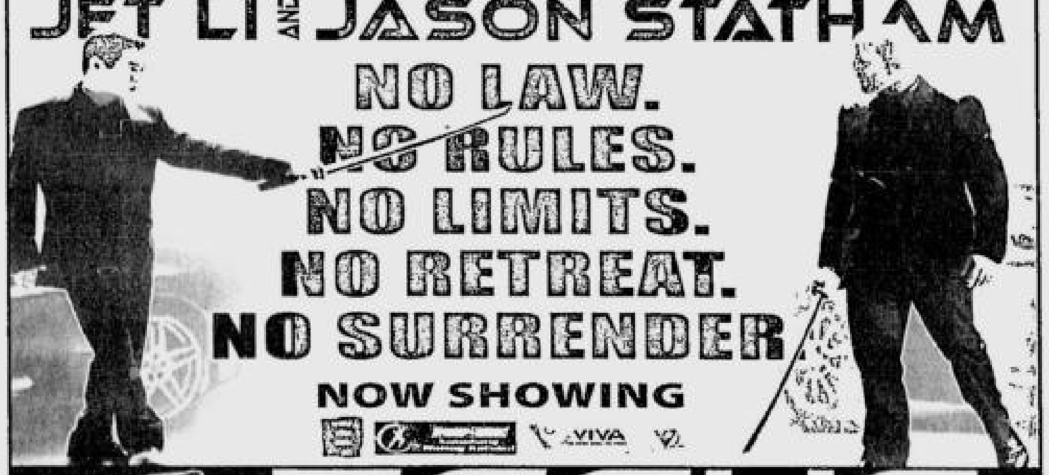
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HOST 6:35 / 9:25	UNDERDOG 2:05 / 4:20	I KNOW WHO KILLED ME 1:55 / 4:30 / 7:05 / 9:40	
DOLBY DIGITAL·EX	BRATZ 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30	THE BRAVE ONE 1:20 / 4:10 / 7:00 / 9:50	...CHUCK & LARRY 55 / 6:45 SHOOT EM UP 4:21, 9:00

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John...

From page D1

John Lloyd happens to be one of her big crushes.

Although Lloydie is already taken, there's nothing wrong if he and Sarah grow fond of each other. They both could use some harmless admiration or innocent flirtation in their lives.

Too many girls

Polo Ravales was spotted at The Block of SM North with **Carla Humphries**. I cornered him about it but all I got was a standard show biz answer that they are just friends.

So I teased Polo some more. "So many girls, so little time huh?" He kept blushing.

Oh well, it's not surprising that a bachelor at large like Polo is seen with a lot of women.

Romance brewing?

Candy Pangilinan's co-stars in "Apat Dapat" keep teasing her to **Zanjoe Marudo**. Does she have a harmless crush on him or is romance brewing between them?

Party time

After Fall Out Boy's sold out concert at the Big Dome, the band partied the night away at Sidebar. I wonder if any of the boys fell for a pretty Pinay.

Ma's birthday

Today happens to

JOHN/ D4

AT THE CINEMAS
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GLORIETTA 4	1 JOSHUA	2 SHOOT 'EM UP	3 THX THE BRAVE ONE GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 BRATZ / 1408	5 UNDERDOG	6 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	7 ROGUE ASSASIN
GREENBELT 1	1 SHOOT 'EM UP	2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY		
GREENBELT 3	1 THX SHOOT 'EM UP GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 UNDERDOG GUARANTEED SEATS	4 ROGUE ASSASIN GUARANTEED SEATS	5 JOSHUA GUARANTEED SEATS	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	2 SHOOT 'EM UP		
	3 BRATZ	4 THE BRAVE ONE	5 ROGUE ASSASIN	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	2 NANCY DREW	3 ROGUE ASSASIN	4 THE LAST LEGION
MARKET! MARKET!	1 ROGUE ASSASIN	2 HOST		
	3 UNDERDOG	4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	5 SHOOT 'EM UP	
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Ayala Malls

glorietta	BPI Appliance Madness September 26 to October 16 at Glorietta Activity Center
GREENBELT	Jazz Nights September 26, 2007 at the Greenbelt 2 Al Fresco
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Town Cheers Competition September 22 & 23, 2007 at the Activity Center
AYALA CENTER CEBU	Elliot Yamin of American Idol Live! September 26; 6 pm; OnStage (Cinema 1)
MARKET! MARKET!	Toyota Showcase September 28 to 30, 2007; at the Activity Center
Greenbelt 1 Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST September 15 - October 7, 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710 or visit www.repertory-philippines.com
Ayala MUSEUM	FORMS & SPACES: An Exhibition by MAIA & Aaron Bautista September 10 to 27, 2007; ArtistSpace For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
TriNoma	Mother Care Exhibit September 16 to 30; 10 am to 9 pm; Restoration Area, Level 3

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Catch American Idol finalist Elliott Yamin in a live concert at the Ayala Malls!

TriNoma
Activity Center
September 21
7:00pm

Glorietta
Activity Center
September 22
7:00pm

Market! Market!
Activity Center
September 23
6:00pm

Ayala Center Cebu
On Stage
September 26
6:00pm

Alabang Town Center
Activity Center
September 28
6:30pm

ABC myx Panasonic RX 93.1

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma

Carmina's...

From page D1

"I loved him in '40 Days and 40 Nights,' 'Hollywood Homicide' and 'Pearl Harbor,'" she says.

At the time of the call, she was preparing gifts for indigent kids, with whom she celebrated her birthday.

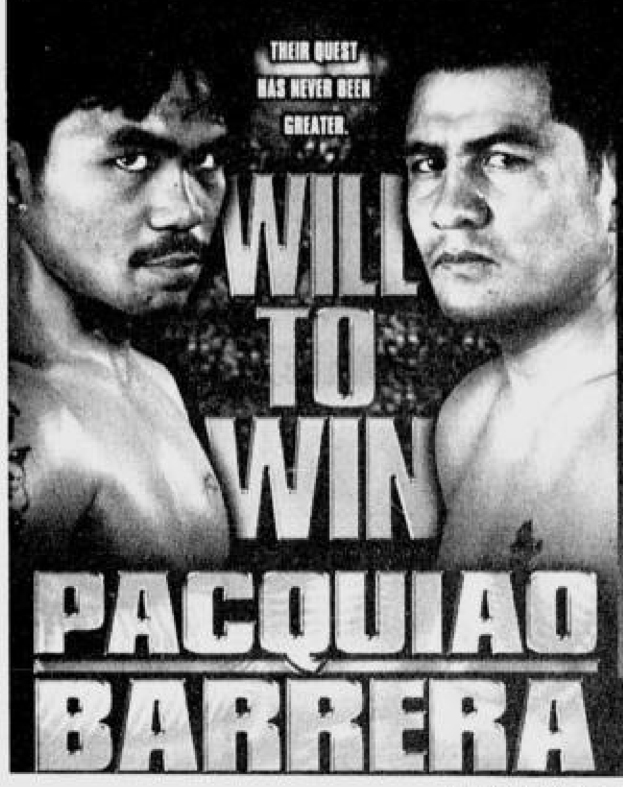
"A friend [who worked in the US production] called and passed the phone to Josh," she recounts. "I didn't want to sound like a fan, so I tried to keep cool. But he was so nice and sincere that I couldn't help myself. At the end of the call, I let out a shriek. I heard him laughing."

As bonus: "My friend told me that all throughout our conversation, Josh was smiling."

SM CINEMA
SHARE A MOVIE WITH A LOVED ONE

movietime™ SHOWTiME
VISIT WWW.SMCINEMA.COM
* Powered by WWW.YEHEY.COM
Your life as a movie
BIG MOVIES • BIG STARS • BIG SHOWS • BIG EVENTS

SPORTSTiME


THEIR QUEST HAS NEVER BEEN GREATER.
WILL TO WIN
PACQUIAO
BARRERA

Watch our country's very own Manny Pacquiao collide with Marco Antonio Barrera in a 12-round super featherweight fight on the big screen
October 7 (Sunday)
8:00 a.m.
All SM Cinemas nationwide

LIVE VIA SATELLITE
NO COMMERCIAL BREAKS
Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!
P 500 (Reserved Seats)
P 400 (Guaranteed Seats)

Price adjustments and seating status may vary per branch
Call or visit your favorite SM Cinema branch for more information

GOLDEN BOY TOP RANK SOLAR ALL ACCESS SM CINEMA

METRO MANILA

SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0104
SAN MIGUEL Coca-Cola IMAX THEATRE
DEEP SEA 3D
Admission Price: P250
12:30 PM • 2:00PM • 5:00 PM • 6:30 PM • 8:00PM
1 THE BRAVE ONE
2 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 SHOOT EM' UP
5 1408
6 UNDERDOG
PREMIERE CINEMA
I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
CENTERSTAGE
BRATZ
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
Bookings now accepted. Inquire at 556-2314.
THE PODIUM CINEMA
CINEMA 1
THE BRAVE ONE
CINEMA 2
UNDERDOG
For ticket reservations, dial 6338976
All major credit cards accepted

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
5 SHOOT EM' UP
6 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
7 ROGUE ASSASSIN
8 UNDERDOG
9 THE HOST
10 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
11 1408
12 RUSH HOUR 3

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 SHOOT EM' UP
3 BRATZ
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN
5 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
6 THE BRAVE ONE
7 THE HOST
8 A LOVE STORY
9 1408
10 UNDERDOG
11 EVAN ALMIGHTY
12 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
2 UNDERDOG
3 THE BRAVE ONE
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN
5 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
6 SHOOT EM' UP
7 EVAN ALMIGHTY
8 A LOVE STORY
9 THE LAST LEGION
10 1408
11 I NOW PRONOUNCE CHUCK & LARRY
12 BRATZ

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 UNDERDOG
3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
4 BRATZ
5 SHOOT EM' UP
6 A LOVE STORY
7 THE BRAVE ONE
8 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
9 1408
10 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 SHOOT EM' UP
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 BRATZ
5 1408
6 UNDERDOG

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 SHOOT EM' UP
2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
3 BRATZ
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN
5 UNDERDOG
6 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
7 THE HOST
8 THE BRAVE ONE
9 A LOVE STORY

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 UNDERDOG
3 SHOOT EM' UP
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 SHOOT EM' UP
3 BRATZ
4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
5 UNDERDOG
6 ROGUE ASSASSIN
7 1408
8 THE HOST
9 A LOVE STORY
10 RUSH HOUR 3
11 DISTURBIA
12 THE BRAVE ONE

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 DAYWATCH
3 THE LAST LEGION
4 UNDERDOG

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
3 UNDERDOG
4 SHOOT EM' UP

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 SHOOT EM' UP
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 THE HOST

LUZON

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 SHOOT EM' UP
2 HAIRSPRAY
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
5 UNDERDOG
6 THE BRAVE ONE
7 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
8 BRATZ

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 UNDERDOG
3 1408
4 RUSH HOUR 3
5 A LOVE STORY
6 ANINO NG SETYEMBRE/MY KUYA'S WEDDING

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 1408
2 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
3 UNDERDOG
4 DISTURBIA

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 INVASION
2 UNDERDOG
3 HAIRSPRAY
4 MY KUYA'S WEDDING

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637601-85
1 UNDERDOG
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 ANINO NG SETYEMBRE
4 FOSTER CHILD
5 A LOVE STORY
6 MY KUYA'S WEDDING

SM CITY LIPA (043) 784-0187
1 A LOVE STORY
2 INVASION
3 UNDERDOG
4 THE LAST LEGION

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 UNDERDOG
2 A LOVE STORY
3 INVASION
4 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 INVASION
3 UNDERDOG
4 RUSH HOUR 3

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 SHOOT EM' UP
4 UNDERDOG

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811
1 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
2 1408
3 UNDERDOG
4 THE BRAVE ONE

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 UNDERDOG
3 A LOVE STORY
4 ANINO NG SETYEMBRE
5 RISE
6 INVASION

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 UNDERDOG
2 1408
3 INVASION
4 EVAN ALMIGHTY

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 HAIRSPRAY
2 INVASION
3 RUSH HOUR 3
4 UNDERDOG
5 1408
6 EVAN ALMIGHTY
7 **RESERVED**
8 THE LAST LEGION

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 DISTURBIA
2 BUG
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 UNDERDOG
5 ANINO NG SETYEMBRE
6 FOSTER CHILD
7 A LOVE STORY
8 BOURNE ULTIMATUM

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010
1 UNDERDOG
2 INVASION
3 SINKING OF JAPAN
4 1408

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD
www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA

Ticket Price THX: P160 130 Indie Sine: 150 632-9116

1 THE BRAVE ONE • THX
1:50 4:35 7:20 10:00
2 ANG LALAKE SA PAROLA
12:40 2:30 4:20 6:10 8:00 9:50
3 indieSine: GULONG
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
4 SHOOT 'EM UP
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
5 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
6 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
12:30 2:40 4:50
7 BRATZ
12:10 2:35 5:00 7:25 9:50
8 ROGUE ASSASSIN
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
9 UNDERDOG
1:30 3:35 5:40 7:45 9:50
10 THE HOST
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

exclusive screening
at Robinsons Movieworld
GALLERIA

Starring:
Harry Laurel, Justin de Leon, Jennifer Lee, Sheree and Allan Paule

According to folklore, the fairy of the lighthouse shows herself every full moon to the man her heart desires. When this man succumbs to the fairy's charms and makes love to her, he will never long for any other woman. Woven into this legend is the story of Mateo (Harry Laurel), a lighthouse caretaker. Jerome (Justin de Leon), a gay man from the city finds himself deeply attracted to this simple yet seductive man upon meeting him. Soon, Mateo finds himself entering a subtle homoerotic journey with his newfound friend, while Suzet (Jennifer Lee), his girlfriend, continues to struggle for his love and attention. Will Mateo bravely cross the thin line between being straight and being gay in the midst of his conservative rural community?

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB Rating: R18

Lalake sa Parola
A homoerotic journey in finding one's true self

GRADED B by the Cinema Evaluation Board

ERMITA

1 SHOOT 'EM UP
12:40 2:40 4:40 6:40 8:35 10:00
2 UNDERDOG 12:00 1:45 3:30
THE BRAVE ONE 5:20 7:40 10:00
3 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00
4 BRATZ
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00
5 THE HOST
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 10:00
6 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 10:00
7 ROGUE ASSASSIN
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 10:00

THE WILL TO WIN
PACQUIAO vs BARRERA II
SOLAR ALL ACCESS

Watch LIVE via SATELLITE GALLERIA • MANILA • METRO EAST •

OCTOBER 7 • Sunday • 8:00AM
FREE hotdog, popcorn and drink for every ticket purchased
TICKETS are available at the ticket booth
TICKET PRICE: P600

METRO EAST

Ticket Price: P100 / P110 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 BRATZ
1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00
2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00
3 SHOOT 'EM UP
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN
11:10 1:40 4:10 6:40 9:10
5 RUSH HOUR 3
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00
6 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00
7 UNDERDOG
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:40 9:00
8 THE BRAVE ONE
1:00 3:35 6:10 9:00

NOVALICHES

Ticket Price: P90 / P100 938-3231 / 938-3229-30

1 SHOOT 'EM UP
2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
3 UNDERDOG
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

PIONEER

[illegible] 687-6376

1 BRATZ
1:00 3:25 5:50 8:15
2 SHOOT 'EM UP
1:10 3:35 6:00 8:25
3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
12:55 3:20 5:45 8:10
4 THE HOST
12:50 3:20 6:50 8:20

STA. ROSA

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (049) 837-0907

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 DAYWATCH
3 DON'T LOOK BACK
4 DISTURBIA

LIPA

Ticket Price: [illegible] P90 (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 1408
2 SKINWALKERS
3 RUSH HOUR 3
4 UNDERDOG

DASMARIÑAS

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (046) 416-4332

1 NANCY DREW
2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 PLANET TERROR

IMUS

Ticket Price: [illegible] 100 (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-6168

1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 THE BRAVE ONE
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 UNDERDOG

ANGELES

Ticket Price: P90 / P95 (045) 892-2346

1 DAYWATCH
2 THE LAST LEGION
3 NANCY DREW
4 DISTURBIA

TARLAC

1 THE INVASION
2 A LOVE STORY
3 1408

STARMILLS

Ticket Price P80 / [illegible] (046) 875-1927

1 THE LAST LEGION
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 NANCY DREW
4 DAYWATCH
5 RUSH HOUR 3
6 DISTURBIA

BACOLOD

Ticket Price: P70 (034) 441-0459

1 SKINWALKERS
2 UNDERDOG
3 THE INVASION
4 THE KING of SCOTLAND
5 HAIRSPRAY
6 1408

ILOILO

Ticket Price: P70.50 / P80.50 (033) 336-8070

1 SKINWALKERS
2 1408
3 DISTURBIA
4 UNDERDOG
5 WAITRESS
6 THE LAST LEGION

John and Shaina. . .

From page D2

be my mom's fourth "birthday in heaven." What an uncanny coincidence that the episode of "Moms" on QTV 11, 5:30 p.m., about "Pulling the Plug" where I was a guest will be aired today. Here's to you, ma. I know you're still plugged in and watching over me.

New Sexbomb

Sexbomb choreographer/manager **Joy Cancio** is at it again. Her Baile search for the next Bomb finalists was a success. She's giving the winner **Michelle Mercado** the biggest break of her life. Even the four other contenders—**Chona Guzman**, **Mizuki Konno**, **Johanne Fagel** and **Veronica Bengco**—will be part of Sexbomb.

Those who were eliminated will take jazz dance lessons courtesy of Joy. Just like the dance trends Joy has set, she's also a step ahead when it comes to discovering new talents and helping them make their dreams come true.

New twist

Ted Failon and **Korina Sanchez** put a new twist in their commentaries on their DZMM radio show "Tambalang Failon at Sanchez" (8:30 a.m., Monday to Friday) by spicing it up with elements of radio drama and satire. They mimic famous personalities and even create colorful characters.

It's one of the reasons why Radyo Patrol Sais Trenta topped the latest AC Nielsen Media Research Survey for AM stations in Mega Manila.

Ears to you, Korina and Ted!

Debut album

Pre-teen singing group Sugarpop has just released its self-titled debut album (Sony BMG). The group is composed of the grand finalists of last year's "Popstar Kids."

The album includes versions of the **Laura Branigan** original "Name Game," "Chocolate" and Smokey Mountain's "Paraiso."

E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com.

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 UNDERDOG
2 CHUCK & LARRY
3 BRATZ
4 SHOOT 'EM UP
PREMIERE
THE BRAVE ONE
ROGUE ASSASIN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 ROGUE ASSASIN
2 SHOOT THEM UP
3 CHUCK & LARRY
4 THE BRAVE ONE

Starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266160
3 CHUCK & LARRY
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) HOST
5 PLEASE CALL

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504288, 8433994
1 CHUCK & LARRY
2 ROGUE ASSASIN
3 SHOOT THEM UP
4 I KNOW WHO KILL ME

THEATRES
1 DAY WATCH
2 UNDERDOG
3 1408

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-0271
1 1408
2 SINKING JAPAN
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 ROGUE ASSASIN
2 SHOOT THEM UP
3 BRATZ
4 THE BRAVE ONE
5 CHUCK & LARRY
6 UNDERDOG
7 1408
8 HOST
9 I KNOW WHO KILL ME
10 RUSH HOUR - 3

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) THE BRAVE ONE
2 (DOLBY) SHOOT THEM UP
3 (DOLBY) CHUCK & LARRY
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 HOST
5 SHOOT THEM UP

THE MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 THE BRAVE ONE
2 RISE
3 BLADE OF GLORY
4 HAIR SPRAY

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 SHOOT THEM UP
2 ROGUE ASSASIN
3 CHUCK & LARRY

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 DISTURBIA
2 DAY WATCH

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 DAY WATCH
2 NANCY DREW
3 DISTURBIA
4 LAST LEGION

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 THE INVASION
2 SKINWALKERS

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 SHOOT THEM UP
2 CHUCK & LARRY
3 BRATZ / THE BRAVE ONE
4 ROGUE ASSASIN / UNDER DOG

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 DAY WATCH
2 SKINWALKERS
3 UNDERDOG
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 UNDERDOG
2 1408
3 SKINWALKERS

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 1408
2 SKINWALKERS
3 UNDERDOG
4 THE INVASION

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plandel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 SINKING JAPAN
2 UNDERDOG
3 SKINWALKERS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 UNDERDOG
2 1408

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 THE INVASION

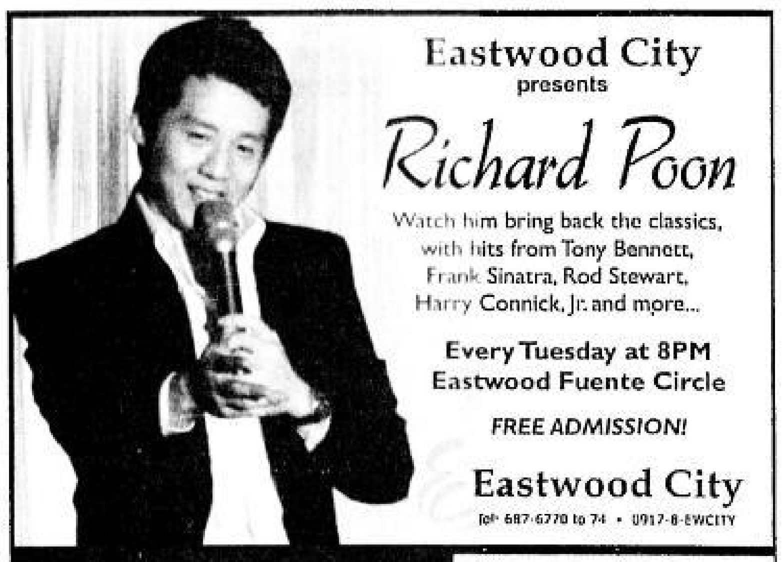
Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 THE BRAVE ONE
2 TAGOS SA LAMAN
3 DRAZEN WOMAN
4 RISE

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 SKINWALKERS
2 HAMOG SA BUKANG LIWAYWAY
3 DAY WATCH
4 SIGNOS
5 BLINDATING

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 CHOPSUEY
2 SKINWALKERS
3 FOSTER CHILD
4 1408

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 PLEASE CALL
2

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE



Eastwood City presents
Richard Poon
Watch him bring back the classics, with hits from Tony Bennett, Frank Sinatra, Rod Stewart, Harry Connick, Jr. and more...
Every Tuesday at 8PM
Eastwood Fuente Circle
FREE ADMISSION!
Eastwood City
tel: 687-6770 to 74 • 0917-8-EWCITY

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
PACQUIAO VS BARRERA II
TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE
For inquiries, call: 687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

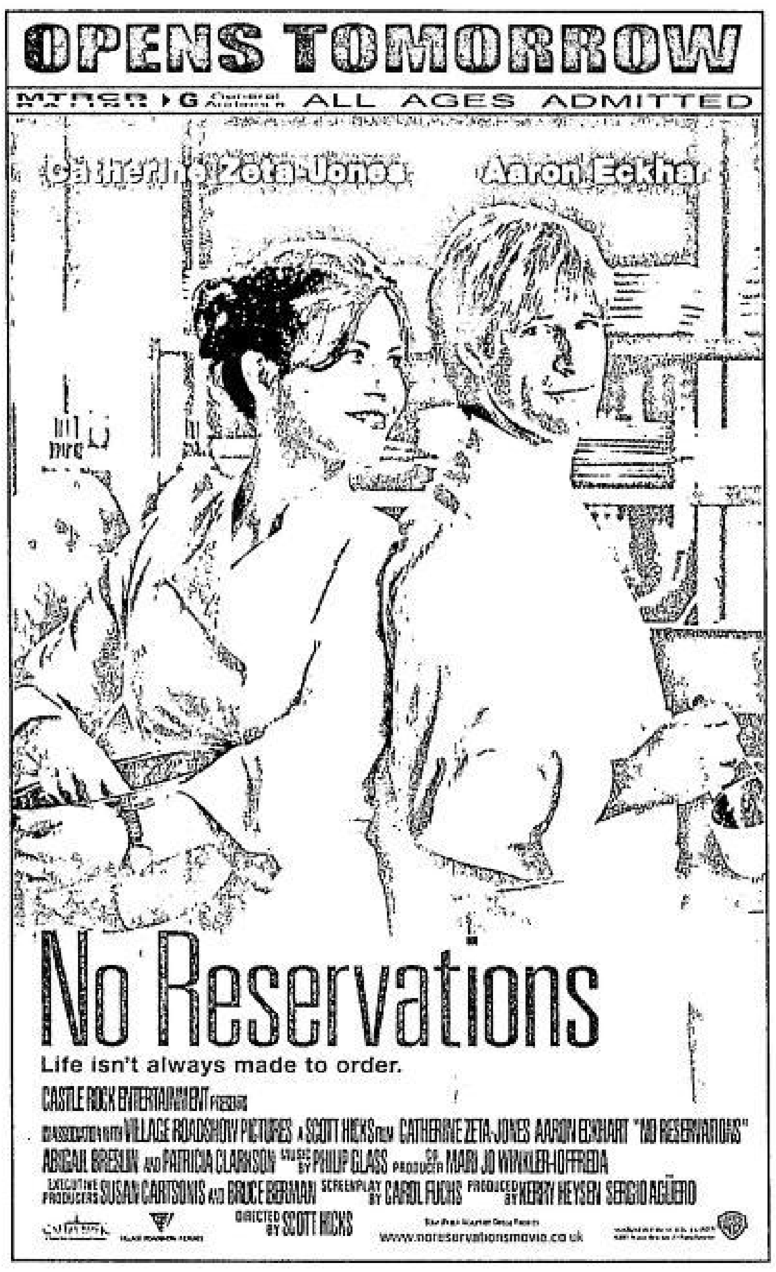
1 SHOOT 'EM UP 4:10, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00 R-13
2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:05 R-13
3 BRATZ 3:05, 5:35 G / BRAVE ONE 8:05, 10:45 R-13
4 UNDERDOG 4:05, 6:05 G / WAR: ROGUE ASSASSIN 8:05, 10:40 R-13

POWER PLANT CINEMA
ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI TEL: 898-1440/41
DOLBY DIGITAL

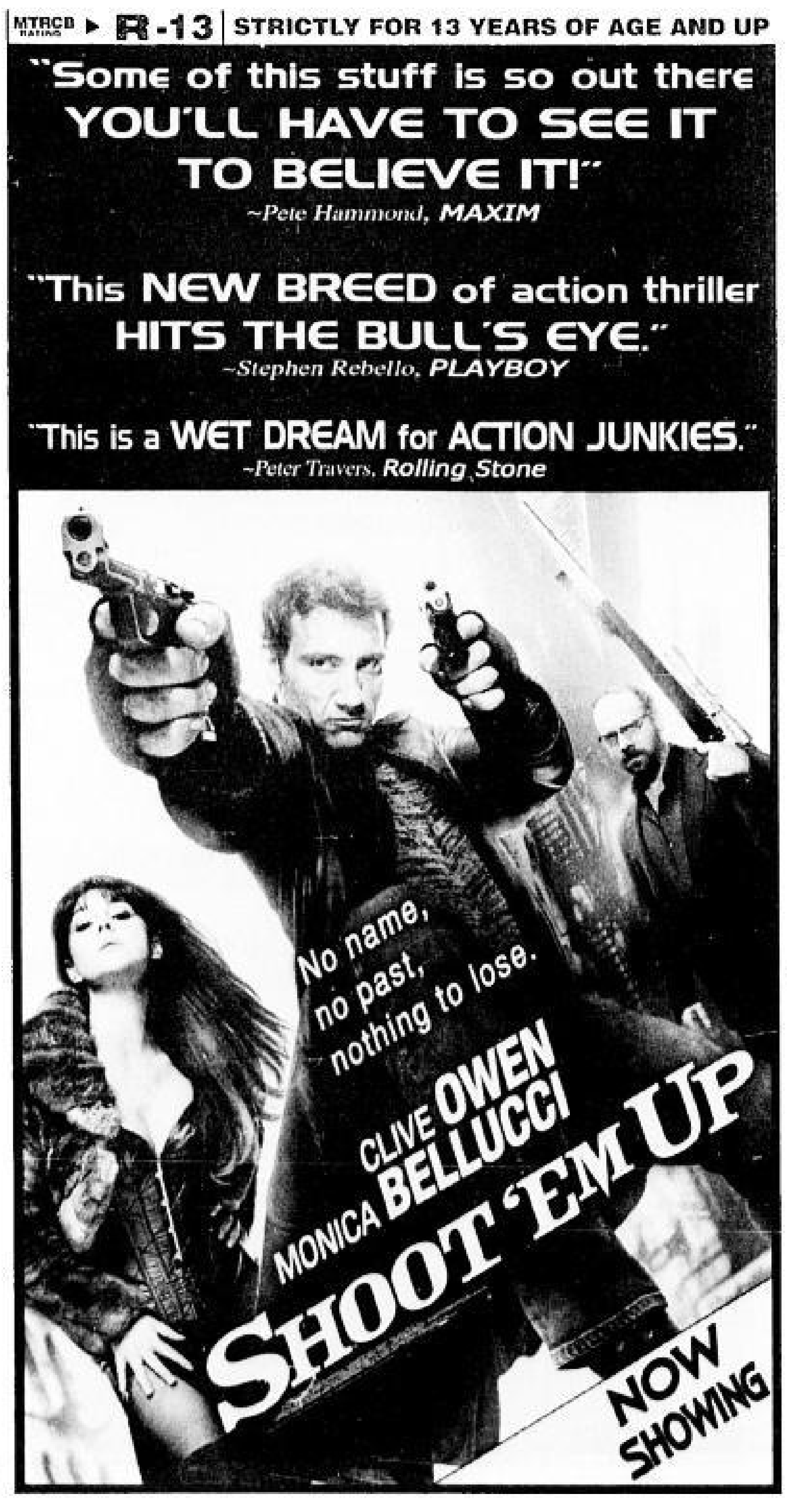
THE BRAVE ONE R13 12:30,3:00,5:30, 8:00,10:30	BRATZ G 12:50,3:10,5:30, 7:50,10:10	SHOOT' EM UP R13 1:40,3:50,6:00, 8:10,10:20
UNDERDOG G 12:10,2:10,4:10, 6:10,8:10,10:10	ROUGE ASSASSIN R13 1:50,4:00,6:10, 8:20,10:30	I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY - R13 12:30,3:00,5:30, 8:00,10:30

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

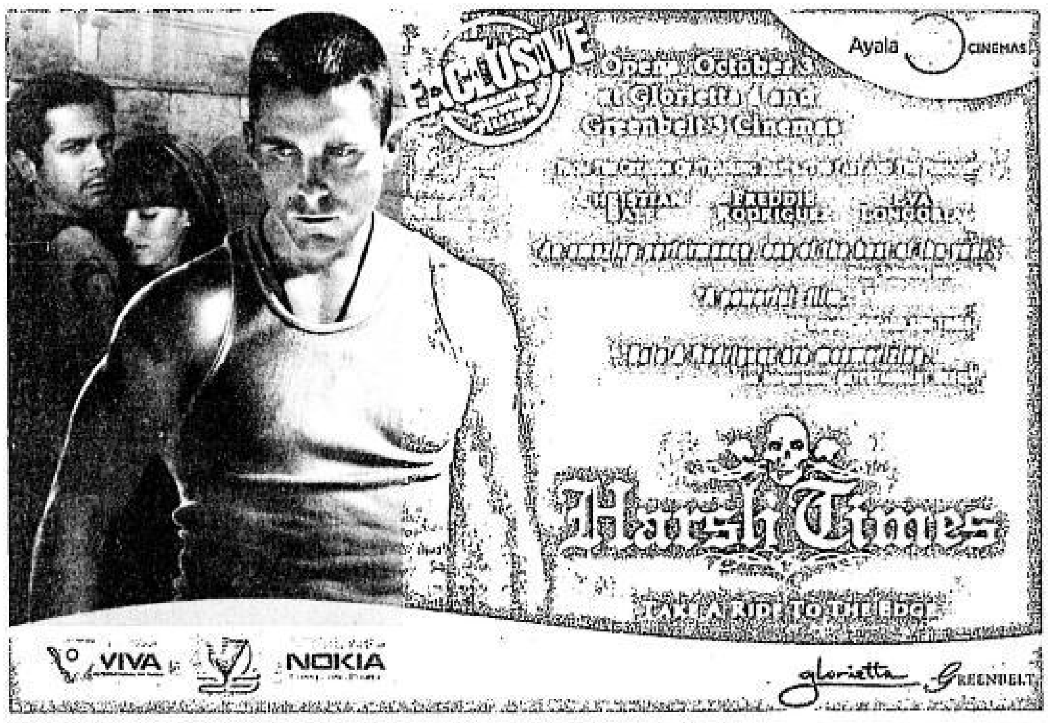
SHANG CINEPLEX
① UNDERDOG MTRCB GP 1:30, 3:30
THE BRAVE ONE MTRCB R-13 5:30, 8:00
② I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY MTRCB R-13 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
③ BRATZ MTRCB GP 1:50, 4:15, 6:40, 9:05
④ SHOOT 'EM UP MTRCB R-13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
PREMIERE THEATRE ROGUE ASSASSIN MTRCB R-13 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice
Catch the Cineplex Special
The Most Awaited Fight is On!
The Will to Win "PACQUIAO vs BARRERA"
Super Featherweight Championship
on OCTOBER 7, 2007 (SUNDAY) - 8:00 AM (MANILA TIME)
Live Via Satellite from
Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada
Cinema Gates Open at 7:00 AM - Ticket Price : P 600.00
6th floor, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
EDSA corner Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Call 633-7851, loc. 171/ 170 or 633-2227 for more details
Shangri-La Plaza



OPENS TOMORROW
MTRCB RATING ▸ G General Audience ALL AGES ADMITTED
Catherine Zeta-Jones Aaron Eckhart
No Reservations
Life isn't always made to order.
CASTLE ROCK ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS
IN ASSOCIATION WITH VILLAGE ROADSHOW PICTURES A SCOTT HICKS FILM CATHERINE ZETA-JONES AARON ECKHART "NO RESERVATIONS"
ABIGAIL BRESLIN AND PATRICIA CLARKSON MUSIC BY PHILIP GLASS CO-PRODUCER MARI JO WINKLER-IOFFREDA
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS SUSAN CARTSONIS AND BRUCE BERMAN SCREENPLAY BY CAROL FUCHS PRODUCED BY KERRY HEYSEN SERGIO AGUERO
DIRECTED BY SCOTT HICKS
www.noreservationsmovie.co.uk



MTRCB RATING ▸ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP
"Some of this stuff is so out there YOU'LL HAVE TO SEE IT TO BELIEVE IT!" ~Pete Hammond, MAXIM
"This NEW BREED of action thriller HITS THE BULL'S EYE." ~Stephen Rebello, PLAYBOY
"This is a WET DREAM for ACTION JUNKIES." ~Peter Travers, Rolling Stone
No name, no past, nothing to lose.
CLIVE OWEN MONICA BELLUCCI
SHOOT 'EM UP
NOW SHOWING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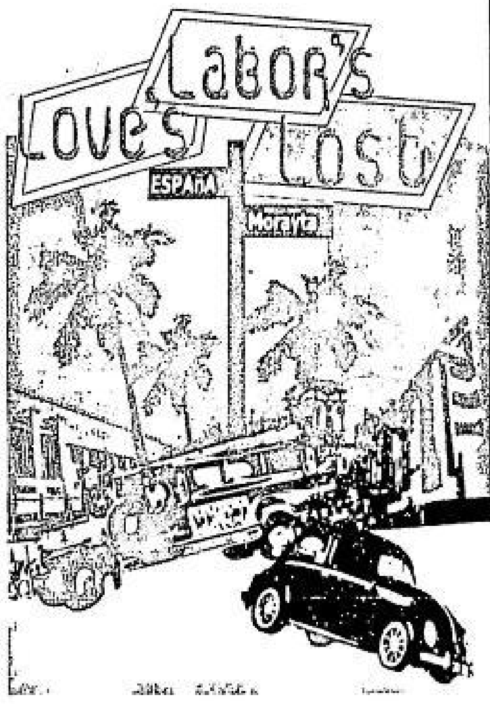

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By William Shakespeare
Directed by Bart Guingona
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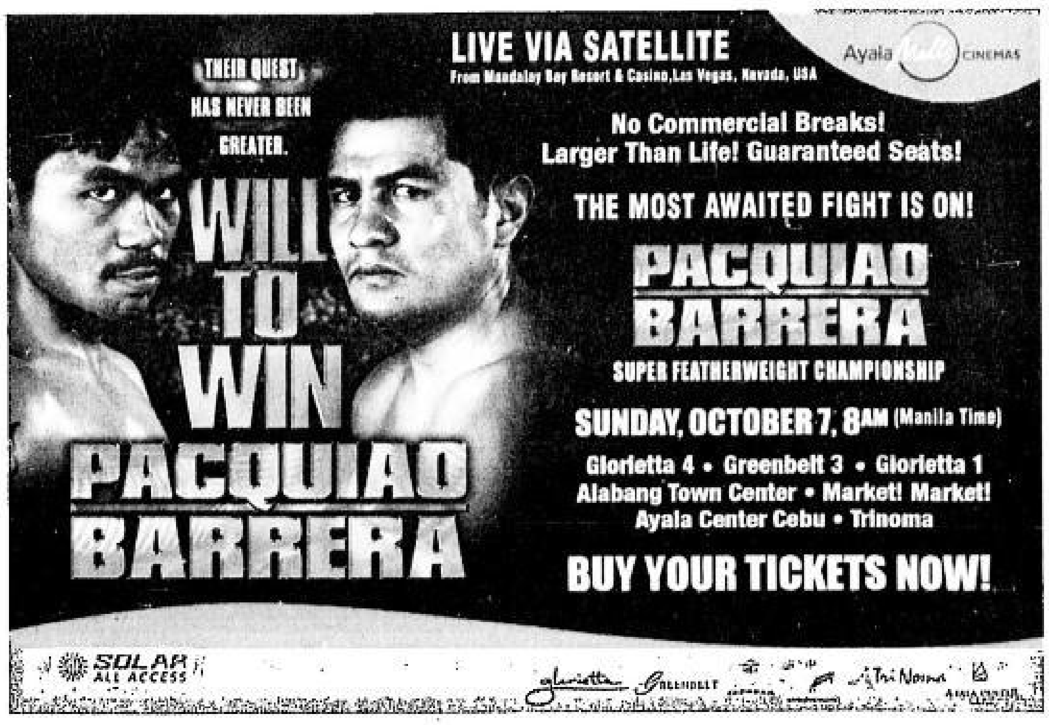

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